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MEDFORD HISTORICAL REGISTER

VOL. XV., 1912

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MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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MEDFORD

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER

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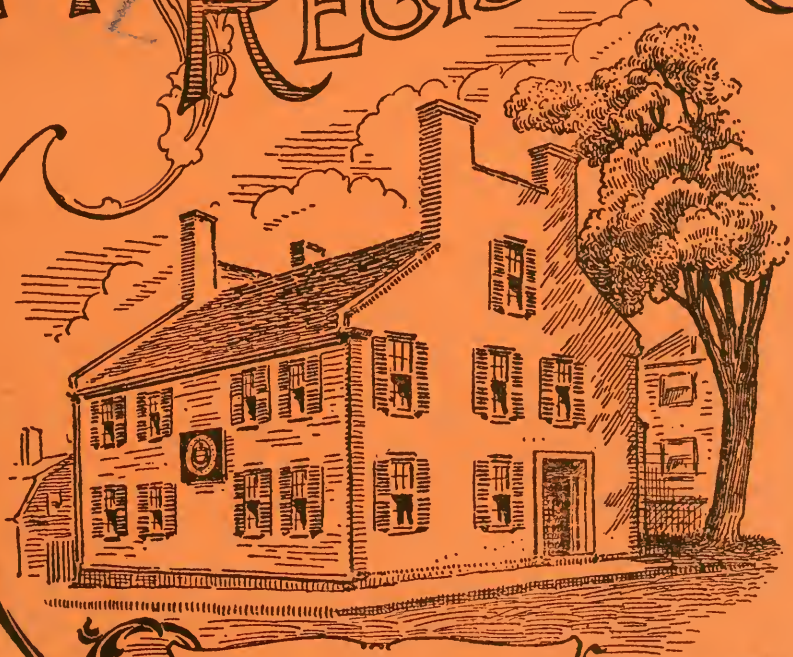

JANUARY, 1912

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H. N. ACKERMAN.

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FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of _____ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.

OLD MAN OF THE FELLS.

THE MEDFORD LION.

The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. XV. JANUARY, 1912. No. 1.

LITERARY MEDFORD.

[Read before the Medford Historical Society by Louise Peabody Sargent, April 17, 1911].

FROM the beginning of Medford's history her records have always shown much intellectual activity among the people. The beautiful natural surroundings, the lakes and woods and river, have formed an environment favorable to a love of letters.

The earlier inhabitants prevented the invasion of the town by large manufacturing interests and thus attracted a class of residents that found leisure for more or less cultivation of the arts and sciences and literature.

In the early days the church was the center of literary interest, and most of its ministers have left some printed record behind them. The Rev. Benjamin Colman, who preached in Medford in 1693, was a model of literary excellence in his sermons. Rev. Ebenezer Turell, who occupied the Medford pulpit from 1724 to 1778, published a pamphlet on "Witchcraft," and "A Direction to My People in Relation to the Present Times," which plead for a religion founded on truth and soberness rather than one arising from emotion. Even more in advance of the times was a discourse in favor of inoculation for smallpox. In 1741 he published "A Memoir of the Life and Death of the Pious and Ingenuous Mrs. Jane Colman Turell, who died at Medford, March 26, 1735, *ætat* 27." Most of the quaint prose and poetry was collected from her own manuscript, and his part of the work included a sketch of her father, the Rev. Benjamin Colman.

Many discourses of the Rev. David Osgood were published from 1784 to 1824, one especially notable in 1783, "Reflections on the Goodness of God in Supporting the People of the United States Through the Late War."

He was famous for his political sermons; the "Devil Let Loose," on the French Revolution; an "Election" sermon; a "Eulogy on George Washington," and others. His daughter, Miss Lucy Osgood, wrote a memoir of Charlotte Ann Haven Brooks, and left many interesting letters written in a marked literary style.

The Rev. Converse Francis published several orations, a "History of Watertown," and "Lives of John Eliot and "Sebastian Rale" for the "Library of American Biography," 1795–1872.

The Rev. Charles Brooks wrote a "History of Medford" in 1855, one of the first of the Massachusetts town histories; "Biographies of Eminent Men and Women," two volumes; "Letters of a Foreign Correspondent"; a "Daily Monitor"; a "Prayer Book"; "Prussian System of Education"; "System of Education in Holland"; a book on Ornithology, and many sermons and lectures. He was a pioneer in the cause of training teachers for their work; by his constant writing and lecturing on the subject, caused the normal school system to be adopted in Massachusetts.*

The Rev. Andrew Bigelow published a minute account of his travels in North Britain and Ireland, also a journal of a tour through Malta and Sicily; and many sermons.

The Rev. Nathaniel Hall published sermons and discourses.

The Rev. John Pierpont, poet and author, was one of the most celebrated divines of Medford. He wrote the "Portrait" in 1812; "Airs of Palestine," 1816, published with added poems in 1850; "Sabbath Recreations," 1839; "Lays of the Sabbath, 1850; "Pilgrims of Plymouth," 1856. He was deeply interested in the cause of education and compiled a number of readers for use in schools. The "American First Class Book" is one of the most notable books of its kind and still sought. On his stone

* Mr. Brooks also wrote, by request of the citizens, "The Tornado of 1851," an account of the devastation of the same in Medford and West Cambridge.—*Editor.*

at Mount Auburn is carved the words, "Poet, Patriot, Preacher, Philosopher, Philanthropist."

The Rev. William Henry Furness was a distinguished theologian whose sermons were published, best known for his books, "Jesus," and "Jesus and His Biographers."

The Rev. Caleb Stetson wrote many tracts, and his sermons and discourses were printed.

The Rev. Elihu Marvin edited the *Congregational Review* and a temperance paper, the *Daily News*.

The Rev. Hosea Ballou, President of Tufts College, wrote the "Ancient History of Universalism," many pamphlets, and edited several hymn books. His sermons and newspaper articles have been reprinted.

The Rev. Edward B. Hall wrote a "Memoir of Mary L. Ware," "Life and Character of Samuel Howe," and the "Atonement."

The Rev. Elias Nason published several biographies, a gazetteer of Massachusetts, and edited a hymn book.

The Rev. E. C. Towne printed many of his sermons.

The Rev. James L. Hill, retired from the ministry, now devotes his entire time to literary work. He has written the "Growth of Government"; "Seven Sorts of Successful Sunday Evening Services," 1904; an election sermon preached before the Governor and Legislature in 1878, and numerous pamphlets on religious, social and historical topics.

The Rev. Frank Ilsley Paradise is the author of "The Church and the Individual," a book that has received wide and favorable comment.

David Atwood Wasson was one of the most notable preachers of his time. He wrote "Christianity and Universal Religion," and a volume of poems. Since his death his essays, critical, political and religious, have been collected and published. A volume of his letters in manuscript, written to and presented by Thomas Wentworth Higginson to the Medford Public Library, are of great interest.

The Rev. Henry C. DeLong, who began his pastorate in 1869 and is still preaching, has published a memorial of Miss Lucy Osgood, and written many articles. His scholarly sermons should be printed. No more unique and faithful record of the citizens of Medford could be made than the choice words he has so fitly and honestly spoken in memory of one and another as they have passed on.

Medford was early chosen as a fitting location for many private schools. In 1790 William Channing Woodbridge started a school that at one time numbered ninety-six girls and forty-two boys. He published a "Modern School Geography," with atlas; "Woodbridge & Willard's Geography, Physical and Political, for the Use of Higher Classes," and edited the "Annals of Education."

Dr. Luther Stearns, father of George L. Stearns, opened a school in 1791 that "became the leading Academy of the United States," to quote the opinion of the time.

Susannah Rowson, famous as the author of "Charlotte Temple," "Lucy Temple," and "Sarah," moved her large school to Medford in 1800, when she wished its girls to have the advantages of a country life. She also wrote a volume of poems and an abridgment of "Universal Geography."

Dr. John Hosmer, John Angier, A. K. Hathaway, Miss Ann Rose, Miss Hannah Swan, Mrs. Newton, and others, carried on large and successful private schools for many years.

Mystic Hall Seminary, in the fifties, trained young ladies in "Composition, Criticism, Moral and Intellectual Philosophy and Horseback riding. English branches, French and Latin languages, Ancient languages and Mathematics. Penmanship and Bookkeeping. Spanish and German, Drawing and Dancing, Embroidery, Needlework, Phonography, French conversation. Singing, Harp, Guitar, Piano and Organ. Painting in Oils and Papier Maché, Monochromatic, Grecian, Oriental, Potichomania, Painting in Water Colors, Wax fruit and flowers, Inlay-

ing of Pearl, Leather Work, Head drawing, Crayon or Colored. Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene.

"The course comprises four departments, the physical, the moral, the mental and the graceful. Boarding pupils, including all the comforts of home, use of carriages, saddle horses, salt water bathing, gymnasium, bowling alley, and all the privileges of day scholars, Spanish, German and Italian extra, three hundred dollars a year."*

Names of the pupils enrolled in these schools have always been and are found among the literary people of the town, thus showing an influence that has been carried down through generations.

Free public schools were founded in Medford in 1670; in 1776 the people voted that "the master instruct girls for two hours after the boys are dismissed," but not until 1834 was it decreed that the "girls shall enjoy equal privileges therein with the boys throughout the year." This may have been one reason for the prevalence of private schools for girls and for boys and girls. This edict was not carried out, however, until the high school was organized in 1835, one of the first three free schools in the State for both sexes, devoted to the higher branches of learning. This school has proved an important factor in the intellectual life of Medford. Numbers of its teachers and pupils have distinguished themselves in art, science and letters. Thomas Starr King, author of "The White Hills; Their Legends, Landscape and Poetry," 1859, said to be "the most complete work of its kind in existence," a forerunner of the modern nature books, taught one of the public schools of Medford for several years.

Lorin Low Dame, whose quickening power guided the high school for twenty-seven years, spent his leisure in adding to the world's knowledge of flowers and trees. "The Flora of Middlesex County," "Typical Elms and Other Trees of Massachusetts" and the "Hand-book of the Trees of New England, with Ranges throughout the United States and Canada," are valuable monuments

* Quoted from year book.

to his exact observation and industry. Elizabeth Gleason Bigelow, a pupil, made many careful drawings to illustrate the "Hand-book of Trees."

Rosewell B. Lawrence has written a complete hand-book of the Middlesex Fells, with maps; and a series of letters of travel, "Egypt and the Holy Land."

The Rev. Bradley Gilman, a high school graduate of 1875, now a Unitarian clergyman, is the author of "From a Parsonage Porch," "Back to the Soil," "Roland Carnaquay," and juvenile stories under the name of Walter Wentworth.

Helen Tilden Wild, who has done such valuable work in historical research, has written a book, "Medford in the Revolution," 1903.

Horace Joseph Howe, engineer, wrote many newspaper articles, and discussions in scientific magazines. His pamphlet, "Piles and Pile Driving, New and Old," is used as a reference book in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; one on the "Rotherhithe Tunnel" was written for and presented before the Institute of Civil Engineers in London at their request; "Some Notes on the Replacement of the Superstructure of the Harlem Ship Canal Bridge" was presented with lantern slides before the American Society of Civil Engineers and contains much historical as well as scientific interest.

Charles Edward Hooper, another high school graduate, has written a delightful book, "The Country House," full of original designs, photographs and descriptions that tempts immediate building.

William Cushing Bamburgh has written "Echo and the Poet" and "Giacomo," both volumes of verse.

One notable contribution to the science of living has been made by Louise Brigham in a book called "Box Furniture," which tells just how to make any furniture needful for kitchen, dining-room, living-room, bedroom, library, office, school-room, from the ordinary packing-boxes of commerce. The necessary tools and materials,

with directions for using, are plainly given, that all who read may make.*

Mrs. Fannie Merritt Farmer, author of the "Boston Cooking School Book" which was said to have had the largest circulation of any book in the Medford Public Library one year, "Chafing-dish Possibilities," "Food and Cookery for the Sick and Convalescent and "What to Have for Dinner," is another high school graduate and proud of it, as Medford is of her.

Persis Hannah, a recent graduate, writes under the pen name of Ruth Cameron for one hundred and twenty newspapers each day, one of the widest audiences of any woman journalist. Some of these essays have been published by this syndicate in book form.

Ernest Bacheller has written two books used in Normal Art Schools — the "Principles of Design" and "Design in Theory and Practice," with a personal directness and freshness of treatment unusual in text-books.

From the days of William Woodbridge and Susannah Rowson until now, Medford people have been writing text-books. Benjamin Franklin Tweed, principal in one of Medford's schools, and afterwards professor at Tufts College, wrote several text-books on English grammar and composition, and was editor of the *Massachusetts Teacher*. Ephraim Hunt, at one time superintendent of schools, published a "Geometry for Grammar Schools." Charles H. Morss, who held the same position, edited a "Book of Fables," by Horace E. Scudder, and the "Heroes of Asgard." He has written many papers, "Practicability of the Extension of High School Influence," "Development of the Public Schools of Medford" and a "Memorial of Lorin Low Dame," and delivered many lectures.

George E. Davenport made a valuable collection of ferns, which he gave to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, where it is known as the Davenport Herbarium.

* This Medford girl lives on the East Side in New York, in a charming apartment furnished with box furniture made entirely by herself, and teaches children and others the art.

He wrote for the *Botanical Gazette*, on botanical nomenclature, many monographs on ferns, on which subject he was a recognized authority. He delivered a lecture with lantern slides, on the Middlesex Fells many times for the benefit of the Fells, and poems and essays of his are to be found in periodicals.

Mrs. Josephine L. Richards made herself an authority on native wild flowers and ferns, and described them so graphically in "Wild Flowers and Ferns," 1893, that the reader could discern them for himself.

Mrs. Etta Austin Macdonald, at one time superintendent of Brockton schools, and her sister, Miss Mary Frances Blaisdell, have issued an instructive set of school readers for young children, the first, "The Child at Play"; the second, "Child Life in Tale and Fable"; third, "Child Life in Many Lands"; the fourth and fifth, "Child Life in Literature." The selections are chosen from the best literature in an original manner, and the workmanship is excellent. "Play Time," "Story-book Friends," "Wide-awake Primer and First Reader," "Polly and Dolly," are other books for young readers by the same authors. In collaboration with Mrs. Julia Dalrymple, Mrs. Macdonald has written "Kathleen in Ireland," "Manuel in Mexico," "Rafael in Italy," and "Une San in Japan." Mrs. Dalrymple is the author of two delightful books for children, "Make-believe Boys" and "Little Me Too."

Mabel Priest Rust is joint compiler of "Song Echoes from Child Land," for use in the kindergarten.

Freeman Clarke Coffin, engineer, wrote a scientific work, "Graphical Solution of Hydraulic Problems," but his real words lie deep in the hearts of his workmen and friends.

George T. Sampson has a pamphlet on "Railroad Organization."

John C. Rand compiled a book of short biographies of prominent men called "One of a Thousand."

Edward Baxter Perry, the blind pianist, has written a

book for music lovers and teachers entitled "Descriptive Analyses of Piano Works," æsthetic as opposed to structural analysis of the music of Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Saint-Saens and others. "Stories of Standard Teaching Pieces" is another of his books.

Miss Emily Hallowell has made musicians her debtors by transcribing many songs of the Southern negro as she heard them, and publishing them under the name of "Calhoun Songs." Olive Dame Campbell has made a like important contribution to literature and music by writing out words and tunes of old ballads as they are sung in the Southern mountains by the descendants of the English, Scotch and Irish who settled there.

Tufts College has been another strong intellectual force in Medford. Charles Tufts of Somerville, who inherited Walnut Hill, then a barren tract, said he meant some day to set a light on it. His words have proved true, for the college set on the hill he gave for that purpose, has been a center of education and culture throughout its history, and has added many illustrious names of both teachers and pupils to literature and life.

Hosea Starr Ballou wrote a biography of Hosea Ballou, 2d, the first president of Tufts College, and many addresses. Rev. Elmer H. Capen, president of Tufts College from 1875 to 1905, published many articles and sermons, a tribute to John Boyle O'Reilly, wrote a history of Tufts College and of Universalism for the "Encyclopædia Britannica," and a "Bible History." The present president, Dr. Frederick W. Hamilton, is the author of "The Church and the Secular Life," and many essays. Alaric Bertrand Start edited a "History of Tufts College." Prof. Amos Emerson Dolbeare, the eminent electrician, wrote many scientific works, and magazine and newspaper articles: "Chemical Tables," "Art of Projecting Matter — Ether and Motion," "Modes of Motion," "Natural Philosophy." Prof. J. Sterling Kngsley has written many scientific papers, and is editor of the *American Naturalist.* Prof. Gardener Chace Anthony is the author of a series of

text-books known as the "Technical Drawing Series." Rev. Warren S. Woodbridge is the author of "Christ in the Life," and many articles. Edwin A. Start, Executive Secretary of the American Forestry Association, has written many articles and lectured on forest preservation. Lawrence Boyd Evans, professor of history, has edited the writings of George Washington, first of a series on the writings of American statesmen, and a series of "Handbooks of American Government," illustrating the polity of different states.

Hollis Godfrey, head of the Science Department in the Practical Arts School of Boston, is the author of an "Elementary Chemistry," and the "Health of the City," a clear, concise statement of the problems that rise from city life, with practical solutions for settling them; a book to be studied. The chapters are, respectively, Air, Water Supply, Food of the City, Food of the Individual, Water and Waste, Ice, Sewer Gas and Plumbing, City's Noise and City Housing. The text of the book is:

"Whether we wish it or no, to keep ourselves we must be our brother's keeper. Only when we strive to guard our neighbors are our own walls secure."

He has also written an unusual story called "The Man Who Ended War," and two juvenile stories, "For the Norton Name," and Jack Collerton's Engine."

Prof. Leo Rich Lewis and Leon Ryder Maxwell compiled "The Assembly Praise Book."

Ruth Dame Coolidge is a contributor to periodicals, the editorial page of the *Boston Transcript*, and has given a course of lectures on architecture.

In the January number of the present year of the *Tufts College Graduate* is an appreciation by Prof. Charles St. Clair Wade, of the personality and the poetry of Grace Harvey Lane, who lived her all too short life in Medford, graduating from the Medford schools and Tufts College. Her poetic translations won great praise. Professor Shipman said she had mastered

the technique of composition, but her own poems describing the things she saw from her window, "The Swamp," "The Redwing," "The Veery," "Evening Primroses," are the true expression of her life.

Suggested by "Chantez! la nuit sera brève," in "Par le Glaive," by Jean Richepin:

Lullaby, the sun is going —
Comes an old man up the stairs,
For a cap the night mists flowing,
And a cloak of dreams he wears;
Lullaby, the sun is going.

Lullaby, the stars are shining —
Like a shadow stealthily
Through the nursery door he 's creeping.
Tiptoe — barefoot — peeping sly;
Lullaby, the stars are shining.

Lullaby, the moon is beaming —
Gently smiling, soft he throws
Golden sand of dream-land gleaming,
On the lids that will not close.
Lullaby, the moon is beaming.

Lullaby, soft winds are breathing —
Now the old man 's gone away;
Dream wings round the sleeper wreathing
Cradle him till comes the day.
Lullaby, soft winds are breathing.

THE VEERY.

Morning over the hills,
The slanting fingers of shade
Lie with a lingering touch that thrills
Into dewy valley and glade.

The birch leaves twinkle and wink
In the touch of the freshening breeze,
And the wild bee hums as down he comes
Through the aisles of bending trees.

The little brook sings and shines
As it slips round the hindering stone,
Telling the violets under the pines
How the sun on the uplands shone.

And a thrush sings far away,
To the sun, and the nesting wife,
And the sweet, wild note from the glad bird's throat
Tells my joy in the day — and life.

In 1825, through the suggestion of the Rev. Andrew Bigelow, a social library was formed in Medford, "promotive of good morals," and "to aid in the diffusion of valuable information." This was merged into a free public library in 1856, through the generosity of the stockholders, and was added to from time to time by gifts from private citizens. This library was useful to those who knew how to take advantage of its privileges, but it was not until the advent of Miss Mary Sargent and her sister, in 1891, that it became a power in the daily life of the community. Since that time good books have been put directly into the public schools, the age limit of use of the library has been abolished, a children's department has been organized, the public has been admitted to the stack room to make choice of books, special students have been assisted in all possible ways, books relating to current events have been listed at appropriate times, wise counsel given to readers by helpful word and suggestive bulletins, educational exhibits in art, handicraft, domestic science and other human activities have been given at frequent intervals. Through their wisdom and diligence the library has become an actual possession of, and a liberal education to, the people of Medford. It has aided and supplemented the work of church and school and formed another uplifting incentive to high endeavor. The collection and arrangement of books written by people who have lived in Medford was one of the many valuable and unsought services Miss Sargent gave the library.

This bookcase of Medford authors has since been catalogued and found to contain over two hundred volumes, representing seventy-nine writers, exclusive of the fourteen volumes of the MEDFORD HISTORICAL REGISTER and its many contributors. Medford has added few great names to the history of literature, but is unique in having

so many busy people who give their leisure to literary pursuits.

Webster defines the word literary as "versed in, or acquainted with literature, well learned, scholarly," also "occupied with literature as a profession." First and foremost, I would name in love and reverence Miss Mary Sargent; versed in literature, with an intimate knowledge of books and who made that knowledge of the utmost service to all. She wrote valuable papers relating to her profession, of which she was one of its most eminent members; and in collaboration with her sister, "Reading for the Young," 1890.

One of the most renowned people, and certainly the most prolific writer of Medford was Lydia Maria (Francis) Child, a sister of Rev. Converse Francis. Her first novel, "Hobomok," published in 1824, when she was only twenty-three years of age, was a great success, and was soon followed by the "Rebels" in 1825. She edited a periodical for children called "Juvenile Miscellany," afterwards published as "Flowers for Children." "The Frugal Housewife"; "Evenings in New England," 1826; "First Settlers of New England," 1829; "The Girl's Own Book"; "The Coronal"; "The Mother's Book," 1831; and the "Ladies' Family Library," four volumes of short biographies, followed in quick succession. Some of her books reached twenty-five editions and were translated and printed abroad.

In 1833 she wrote a pamphlet, "An Appeal for that Class of Americans Called Africans," which cost her her popularity as woman and writer. She never faltered in her work for the anti-slavery cause, however, but left her home and went to New York to edit the "Anti-Slavery Standard," wrote "Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Written by Herself," "Life of Isaac T. Hopper," and "Letters from New York" and newspaper articles daily against slavery. She wrote for all time; the "Mother's Book," but for the diction, might have been written yesterday; we have not yet gone beyond her vision.

She excelled in many lines — juvenile literature, fiction, essays, history, biography, domestic science. A further list of her books are "Philothea," 1836; "A Brief History of the Condition of Women in Various Ages and Nations," two volumes, 1854; "Fact and Fiction"; "Aspirations of the Spirit"; "The Freedmen's Book," 1865; "Progress of Religious Ideals Through Successive Ages," three volumes, 1869; "Romance of the Republic," 1867; "Autumnal Leaves," 1857; "Looking Toward Sunset," 1865; "Biographies of Good Wives"; and "Letters," collected after her death.

Maria Gowen Brooks was born in Medford in 1794. She went abroad, met many famous people, and achieved an international reputation for her poetry — "Judith, Esther, and Other Poems," 1820; "Zophiel," 1825; and an "Ode to the Departed." Robert Southey was said to have given her the name Maria del Occidente, which she used as a *nom de plume*. She wrote a novel in 1843 called "Idomen," supposed to have been autobiographical. Many believed her to have been the original of the "Woman in White," by Wilkie Collins.

Dr. John Brooks, one of Medford's most distinguished citizens, delivered an oration before the Society of the Cincinnati in 1787; a "Eulogy on George Washington," 1800; "Discourse Before the Humane Society," 1795; and a remarkable "Farewell to the Militia of the Commonwealth" in 1823, all of which are in print. Of his inaugural address, when governor of Massachusetts, President Monroe said, "I am willing to take the principles of that speech as the basis of my administration."

Among other early writers we find Timothy Bigelow, lawyer, many of whose orations from 1767 to 1790 have been preserved, and a "Journal of a Tour to the Falls of Niagara," reprinted.

Samuel Hall was editor of the *Essex Gazette*, *New England Chronicle*, *Salem Gazette*, and *Massachusetts Gazette*, 1768–1807.

Edward Brooks was a contributor to the "North American Review."

A unique pamphlet was written in 1847 by Abijah Baker—"The Ark, Ships and Shipbuilding, with a Brie History of the Art," and a register of vessels built in Medford.

James Gilchrist Swan wrote "Life in the Northwest," in 1857, and later the "Amoor River." He was the author of many monographs on ethnology and made himself an authority, through observation, on the customs and languages of the Northwestern Indians. Much of his work was given to the Smithsonian Institution, and he filled many important public positions. Judge Swan presented the collection of Indian relics and curios to the Medford Public Library in 1880.

In 1856, a Medford lad of seventeen, Nathaniel Holmes Bishop, with forty dollars in his pocket, shipped before the mast and sailed to Buenos Ayres. From there he tramped, with a caravan of natives and aliens, over the Pampas, the Cordilleras, crossed the Andes through the snow, dangerously alone, landed in Chili, where he shipped again for the long voyage around Cape Horn, and reached home with five additional dollars in his pocket. The journal of this "One Thousand Mile Walk Across South America" is of thrilling interest, and filled with geographical and ethnological data and descriptions of the flora and fauna of the countries he traversed. His interest in natural history was the incentive for making this unusual journey, and he brought home with him a rare collection. He also wrote the "Voyage of a Paper Canoe, from Quebec to New Orleans, via the Hudson River and Atlantic Waterways," and "Four Months in a Sneak Box," both records of personal experience.

In 1853 a volume of short stories, essays and poems by Louise J. Cutter were collected and published after her early death and named "Cypress Leaves."

Elizabeth M. Hall compiled a book on "Practical American Cookery and Domestic Economy" that would repay study, even in the changed conditions since 1856.

Elizur Wright, a man of words as well as deeds, translated "La Fontaine's Fables," 1859, and wrote "Savings Bank Life Insurance," 1872, and "Trap Baited with Orphan," 1878. His daughter Ellen published his appeals for the Middlesex Fells and the forests, with a sketch of what he did for both.

Richard Price Hallowell was the author of "Quakers in New England," 1870; "Quaker Invasion of Massachusetts," 1883; "Pioneer Quakers in Massachusetts," 1887.

Mrs. Anna Davis Hallowell edited the "Life and Letters of James and Lucretia Mott," 1884.

John Ward Dean, whose long and valuable services as librarian of the New England Historical and Genealogical Society has made all investigators in that most patient of studies indebted to him, has written a "History of the Gerrymander," 1892; "Descendants of Thomas Deane," 1883; "Memoir of Rev. Nathaniel Ward"; "Memoirs, Rev. Michael Wigglesworth"; "Hon. Daniel Messinger"; "Charles Wesley Tuttle," and with Hon. Daniel Messinger, "The Messinger Family in Europe"; and with Charles Wesley Tuttle, "Capt. Francis Champernowne."

David Henry Brown, a worker in genealogy, wrote "Simon and Joan Clarke Stone and Three Generations of Their Descendants."

James Madison Usher published the "History of Medford," by the Rev. Charles Brooks, in 1855, and revised and enlarged it afterwards up to the year 1886. Edward Preston Usher wrote "The Church's Attitude Towards Truth," 1907, and a memorial sketch of Roland Greene Usher, to which is added a genealogy of the Usher family in New England.

Henry Grosvenor Cary wrote "The Cary Family in England" and the "Cary Family in America."

Thomas Brooks compiled the family record of Jonathan and Elizabeth Brooks.

The writings of Frank Preston Stearns cover a wide range of subjects — art, literature, criticism, biography, political science. In 1888 he edited a book on John

Brown, by Herman von Holtz, for which he was singularly fitted through his personal knowledge of John Brown. In 1895 he published "Sketches from Concord and Appledore," and in 1905 "Cambridge Sketches," both intimate biographies of famous men. In 1892 appeared "Real and Ideal in Literature," and in 1897 "Modern English Prose Writers." He also wrote "Four Great Venetians" and the "Midsummer of Italian Art;" a "Life of Otto von Bismarck;" "Life and Genius of Nathaniel Hawthorne;" the "Life and Public Services of George Luther Stearns," his distinguished father; and "True Republicanism."

Miss Annie H. Ryder, who has conducted a private school in Medford for a dozen years, is the author of two inspiring books of essays, "Hold Up Your Heads, Girls," and "Go Right On, Girls," and has compiled "New Every Morning," a day book of selections appropriate for girls.

Joseph Edgar Chamberlin, editor, who originated the Listener column of the *Boston Transcript*, published two volumes selected from it, wrote a monograph on "John Brown," included in the "Beacon Biographies," and a book of curious interest entitled "The Ifs of History."

Some notable briefs on the Division of Medford and other cases, by Judge Benjamin Franklin Hayes, have been published for reference and are to be found in the Medford Authors' bookcase; also stirring speeches by Col. Norwood P. Hallowell, and an article on "American College Athletics" by J. Mott Hallowell.

The "Proceedings of the Two Hundred and Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Settlement of Medford" were issued by the Publishing Committee in 1906. The addresses, poems and various events of the four days' celebration are fully recorded and form a very interesting and valuable volume of nearly three hundred pages. This book is prefaced by a very complete though necessarily brief history of Medford from the day of its settlement to the time of the anniversary (June 15, 1905). The author, John H. Hooper, has given a concise and

clear account of Medford's beginning, its people, its industries, its roads, bridges and buildings, its churches, schools, institutions and societies in ninety pages, a labor of love for his native town.

The Medford Publishing Company also issued during the time of the celebration a souvenir volume called "Medford, Past and Present," which is a credit to the writers and an honor to the city. The contributors of the various articles are John H. Hooper, Moses Whitcher Mann, Herbert A. Weitz, Helen Tilden Wild, Mrs. M. Susan Goodale, Charles E. Bacon, Elizabeth J. Joyce, George S. Delano, Irving Farnum, Mortimer E. Wilber, Allston P. Joyce and others.

A copy of the costliest book in the world is owned by the library, one hundred of which were made for distribution only, at the cost of one thousand dollars each. Other copies were sent to the King of England, the Queen of Holland, the Emperors of Germany, Russia, China and Japan, and to famous museums and libraries in different parts of the world. This book describes and illustrates the marvellous collection of jade, giving a chronology of the mineral's life and history, that Reginald Heber Bishop, a native of Medford, presented to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

George Savary Wasson, son of David Atwood Wasson, is the author of three volumes of short stories, "Cap'n Simeon's Store," published in 1903; "The Green Shay," in 1905; and "Home from Sea," in 1908. Many others of his stories have appeared in the *Atlantic*, the *Outlook*, and other periodicals. He is a marine artist, familiar with the men and the scenes of the Maine coast. He formed a habit of making a note of the stories he heard from time to time, and offered the records thus formed to his neighbor, William D. Howells, as material for his work. Howells replied to him as did Henry James to George Du Maurier under similar circumstances, "Write them yourself."

Sarah Warner Brooks was the author of three volumes

of poetry — "Blanche," published in 1858; "St. Christopher, and Other Poems," in 1859; and the "Search of Ceres, and Other Poems," in 1900; also a volume of criticism, "English Poetry and Poets," in 1890. She wrote two volumes of short stories, "My Fire Opal, and Other Tales," 1896, and "Poverty Knob" in 1900. "Alamo Ranch" appeared in 1903, and "A Garden with House Attached" in 1904. Four of these books were written after she was seventy-eight years of age and the last one in her eighty-third year.

Mary B. Carret, whose childhood was spent alternately between the Island of Cuba and the Royall House, wrote, in 1899, "The Little Hero of Matanzas."

Louise Winsor Brooks made one of the wisest and most delightful books for children ever written, accessible to English readers by translating "Heidi" from the German of Johanna Spyri. She also translated "Veronica" and "Rico and Wiseli" by the same author.

Mabel G. Foster, at one time a Medford school teacher, has written a novel of the Italian quarter called "The Heart of the Doctor," and essays on Italian life and literature, art and history.

Mary Augusta Kellogg is the author of "Leo Dayne," a novel.

Amy Woods has written many magazine articles, and in 1905 a book called "Mr. Penwiper's Fairy Godmother."

Marion K. Loud, another young woman born in Medford, is the author of "A Picnic on a Pyramid."

Susan Marr Spalding, author of the "Wings of Icarus" and "Winter Roses," volumes of poetry, famous as the author of the poem called "Fate," chose Medford as her home the last five years of her life, and lies in Oak Grove Cemetery.

THE SINGERS.

One, blind, has taught how beauty should be sung;
One, deaf, all silence tuned to music sweet;
From one who wandered homeless in the street,
A rapturous, deathless song of home was wrung.
How many a pæan of victory has sprung

From pallid lips, grown nerveless with defeat!
How many empty hearts must sadly greet
Their own love songs on happier lover's tongue!
As some rare fabrics are in darkness wrought
Lest light should mar the dainty web, so, too,
The poet, with a golden thread of thought,
Weaves in the shade his fancies fine and true.
So from his sorrow is your pleasure brought,
The joy he hath not doth he give to you!

— *Susan Marr Spalding.*

Catherine Wilder Fellowes Paradise wrote juvenile literature for periodicals. "Little Theocritus," a poem, is reprinted in Stedman's "Anthology of American Poetry," and "On a Volume of Dante," is included in Higginson's "American Sonnets."

LITTLE THEOCRITUS.

Ye white Sicilian goats, who wander all
About the slopes of this wild mountain-pass,
Take heed your horny footsteps do not fall
Upon the baby dreamer in the grass.

Let him lie there, half waking, and rejoice
In the safe shelter of his resting place,
In hearing of his shepherd father's voice,
In reach of fruity clusters o'er his face.

Look up, sweet baby eyes, look up on high,
To where Olympus merges in the blue,
There dwell the deathless gods in majesty,
The gods who hold a mighty gift for you.

Those little, clinging hands shall write one day
Rare, golden words, to lift the hearts of men;
Those curling, downy locks shall wear the bay,
A crown that they shall never lose again.

Little Theocritus! Look up and smile,
Immortal child, for there are coming years,
When the great, busy world shall pause awhile
To listen to your singing through its tears.

Maud Kilbourn Wellington has published a volume of "Rhymes."

Mary L. Wyatt, for many years a correspondent of

the *Springfield Republican*, wrote "Verses for Little Citizens," a volume of temperance rhymes.

Mary Harlow Hayes has written many poems and sonnets, occasional and inspirational, that deserve a wider audience.

Caroline E. Swift is the author of many brilliant occasional poems, club papers and articles for magazines.

The verses of Charles H. Loomis have often graced the pages of the HISTORICAL REGISTER and the *Medford Mercury* and have been collected and privately printed.

There are many young journalists in Medford doing excellent work — Persis Hannah, Eleanor Ladd, Frank Lovering, Mortimer Wilber, Charles T. Daly, and others.

Medford has reason to be proud of, and grateful to its Historical Society for putting into permanent form so much of the literary work of its members, setting aside the historical interest entirely. The fourteen volumes of the MEDFORD HISTORICAL REGISTER contain many valuable articles written by Miss Mary Sargent, James A. Hervey, Thomas S. Harlow, Lorin Low Dame, Abby Drew Saxe, Parker R. Litchfield, Benjamin F. Morrison, David H. Brown, Charles Cummings, Dr. Charles M. Green, Rev. Henry C. DeLong, John H. Hooper, Moses Whitcher Mann, Charles H. Morss, Myra Brayton Morss, Helen Tilden Wild, Anna D. Hallowell, Eliza M. Gill, Caroline E. Swift, William Cushing Wait, Walter H. Cushing, Fred H. C. Woolley, Benjamin Pratt Hollis, Herbert N. Ackerman, Mrs. J. M. G. Plummer, Grace L. Sargent, Charles H. Loomis, Ellen Wright, and many others.

The annals of the Shakespeare Club, started in 1866 by Miss Alice Ayres, forms a distinguished chapter in the literary history of the town. For thirty-four years a modest little reading club has studied literature, history, and problems of the day. The numerous essays written by its members, if published, would be found worthy of the greater recognition. For several years the programs of the Medford Women's Club were furnished

by its members; many subjects were thoroughly studied and many interesting papers written that merit preservation. All these societies and others have produced good literary work that would add to the value of the bookcase of Medford authors if placed there. It would show appreciation of the work Miss Sargent so wisely began, and be a help and stimulus to others, could these poems and essays be collected and given into the custody of the librarian.

The work of church, school, library and club has been, after all, the work of the many noble men and women, all through the history of the town, whose lives and words have stimulated thought and action; its preachers, teachers, home makers, who have understood the fine art of living and made Medford a place where people could live as they chose to live, in freedom of thought and independence of action, with leisure devoted to uplifting work. Such a past and present should presage an even greater future for literary Medford.

ROCK SCULPTURE IN MEDFORD.

How many residents of the Medford of today remember anything of an industry of the old town that must have been an extensive one in its time? The dark granite in many walls along our streets and in numerous house foundations is often noticed by visitors in the city and inquiry made about it. And a like inquiry was made years ago in relation to the red gravel that surfaced the broad malls of Boston Common, for both were from the same source. Like many other good things, they were Medford products, though not so widely known or distributed as some others.

The Medford granite was favorably known, and at the time when the polishing process came in vogue was found to lend itself to artistic work equally well with the other varieties.

It is not to this industry that we wish to call attention,

though an interesting article might well (and should be) written thereon by some one conversant with the facts. The industry has long ceased, and the "Quarry road," over which the massive blocks and thousands of loads of red gravel were hauled is now only traversed by solitary horsemen or the carriages of pleasure seekers, or by lovers of nature rambling along its shady and quiet woodland way. Nature has for years been kindly healing the gashes and wounds made by the quarrymen, and the scars that remain are gradually disappearing as the seasons come and go.

Thanks to the efforts of interested and public-spirited men a great natural park is assured to the people, and the old granite quarry lies at its gateway. But a short distance from Forest street and the new boulevard is a rare combination of the natural and the artificial, or rather accidental, an object of interest and one rarely seen, the "Old Man of the Fells." We deem the Old Man worthy of an introduction to our readers and to the public, and show him in his calm and graceful pose in our frontispiece. So far as we know he has never been introduced to the people in print by any one, other than the present writer,* who did so three years ago in the columns of the *Medford Mercury* and *Boston Globe*. To the former the REGISTER is under obligation for its illustrations.

Shortly after such introduction the old man was visited by numerous people, to whom his existence was a revelation. Some took the woodland walk and returned no wiser, having failed to discover him, though passing within a rod of his stony face. Of course the reader will understand that, like every thing else of the kind, all depends on the point of view. As one leaves Forest street and enters the Fells, Quarry road takes him over Gravelly brook. A few rods ahead to the right the rock ledge crops out, the eastern end of the old granite quarry.

* It should be noticed here that the *New England Magazine* has presented a summer view of the same profile, but with no description thereof, in connection with an interesting article on Middlesex Fells by F. W. Coburn.

Whether here was the end or the beginning of the quarrymen's work may never be known, but the farther, or western side of the rock is rent and torn by their blasts, while the eastern and southern are the natural slope.

As one walks along it is simply a woodland vista that he sees. A few steps farther and the massive head begins to assume shape; a little farther and the forehead and eyebrows appear, then the jagged rock, wind-swept, storm-beaten and sun-kissed for long years, present the aquiline nose and firmly set chin of the Old Man of the Fells in his impressive pose. A dignified and restful one it is, too, as he looks northward into the solitude and quiet of his domain, and seems like a watchful guardian of a sylvan shrine.

The Old Man is seen at his best by those who take a winter walk when snow has spread a mantle of ermine over his shoulders and white robes all about him. Then the sharp contrast of his rocky profile is all the more prominent, and under such conditions was our view secured.

A summer visit may be more comfortable to make, but will lack these features. It will have the compensation, however, of bird songs, and the glinting sunlight as it plays through the quivering foliage will lovingly caress his devoted head, no longer with gray locks but many years young.

Unlike most of such weird rock sculpture, the Old Man may be viewed almost as well from the opposite direction, but at a greater distance. A year since the writer walked thither from the Lawrence tower in company with a Western prairie-born lady. To her the wild, rugged scenery of the Fells was something new. As we walked over the height of Quarry road he remarked, "I'm going to introduce one of my friends to you," and she replied, "Oh, yes! I can see him." And sure enough, much to his surprise, he saw for the first time from that direction the placid face of the Old Man of the Fells peering out between the trees and keeping his lonely vigil.

. . . . . .

On the eastern slope of the hill over which the early settlers of Woburn penetrated the primeval forests to locate their Charlestown village, lies a great boulder that is worthy of notice, partly because of its lonely position, and also because of its peculiar shape. No artificial work on this, for ages agone it was left there by the irresistible forces of nature that shaped it thus. It bears the semblance of a great stone beast, and of one that has ever been the human sculptor's favorite, the kingly lion. Reposefully he lies on his rocky bed, his visage grim and dark with the suns and storms of centuries long past. Could he but speak, what a story might be told of those ages long gone; of his far-away home, and how he was left stranded strangely alone on this rocky hillside! Compared with those, the time when the red men came would be modern. And he might tell of the last of that race that dwelt in our city but a few rods away from him, until they went for their last abode farther off in the rocky fastness now known as the Fells. He would tell how the early settlers made their first road northward just behind him, and of the people and traffic that went over it for two hundred years. Within his view, not far away, the first Medford meeting-house was built, and nearer still the woodland lane that still remains led to some early settler's home on Cedar hill beyond the brook.

Not till seventy years ago was the new road (Winthrop street) cut through Sugar-loaf hill, and the stream of travel from Woburn and farther north flowed down at his feet. A little later, when steam had been utilized, some adventurous ones began the building of a railroad. They failed in their effort, and work stopped with the rock-cut beside the lane sixty years ago. For years a band of gypsies had their summer rendezvous just below his rocky lair, but they come no more.

Silent as the Sphinx in Mount Auburn, this Medford one has beheld sorrowful processions pass with their loved ones to the ever increasing but silent city of the dead. Silently, also, has he seen some stranded by the

adverse waves of misfortune wending their way to the city home; but of none of these does he speak, but we may read it all between the lines.

In recent years the modern trolley cars have come nearer him than would those earlier ones, and have met for their passing just below, with their busy human freight. Few, indeed, of all the throng have ever noticed the silent figure on the hillside, or recognized his form silhouetted against the sky. But all the time he has been lying there, stately and serene in reposeful attitude, only waiting for some one to stop in the right place, with eyes to see, camera to carry away the view, and the public print to reproduce by the modern process his leonine majesty on his rocky throne.

His audience chamber is limited to a small area on Winthrop street. His attendants, the cedars, wave their dark green plumes about him constantly, while the birches, like maids of honor in white robes, with fans of summer foliage vie in their attention and make it difficult to see him in all his royal state. The rock ferns are thick about him, and the heavy green moss is like an emerald carpet before his throne, now ages old.

At a respectful distance, from a carefully selected point of view, because of the trees alluded to, may best be seen this boulder that requires but little imagination to be what some one has called it, the "Medford Lion." Just below Brooks street, coming toward Winthrop Square, is the place—and look up. It, with its surroundings, form a bit of natural scenery well worth seeing, but the right position must be taken. This done, the shaggy mane and tail appear clearly, and best when the foliage is gone.

THE 18-18 BOYS.

Such was the name by which a little company of Medford men was for many years known. Various have been the reasons for which clubs have been formed, and equally various the conditions requisite for membership.

In this, there was but one, the accident of birth, and that not of place, but of time.

And so it came about that ten (and perhaps more) Medford men formed a social club with the above name. At the present time, of the coterie born in the year 1818 but one survives,* and he "in age and feebleness extreme." Their names, so far as can now be ascertained, were Asa Law, Marshall Symmes, William B. Thomas, Henry Richardson, Alfred Tufts, Henry Reed, David S. Hooker, Mark Durgin, Samuel F. Woodbridge and John Frost. How many beside Mr. Symmes were natives of Medford is unknown.

Various occupations they had. Mr. Law, who bore the military title of Colonel, was in the engraving business, and also at times officiated as an auctioneer. Mr. Symmes was a farmer, and resided at Symmes' Corner in Upper Medford, in Governor Brooks' birthplace, and when Winchester was incorporated was thus arbitrarily moved out of town. Mr. Thomas was a carpenter, skilled at his trade, and served the town in various offices. Mr. Richardson and Mr. Reed were ship-carpenters in the days when things were lively on the Mystic. Mr. Woodbridge was a Faneuil Hall market-man, and John Frost was a "fish man" whose white head gained him the sobriquet of "Jack Frost." Mr. Tufts was a wheelwright and Mr. Hooker a blacksmith.

The 18-18 Boys, unlike the other social and fraternal societies, were satisfied with one meeting yearly, which they held at the Medford House and indulged in a spread, called by some a dinner, by others a supper. On these occasions each member invited a son or nephew, and one (Colonel Law), who had neither, invited a Tufts College boy, who entertained the company by singing or otherwise. On these occasions the "real boys" wore badges on which the numerals 18-18 were made by boring holes through the same. Two (Richardson and Durgin) were accustomed to present their contributions to the entertainment in rhyme. Inquiry fails to establish the date

* See following article.

when they first met, but probably when they had reached middle life.

One guest was always present and doubtless entertained his hosts with many a good story — George Nichols. But time passed on and Medford's "Old Sexton" (Nichols) could truly say in the words of the song, "I gather them in, I gather them in."

About ten years ago they met for the last time, three (possibly four, as there were but seven) men present on that occasion. They had passed the age of fourscore years, and the memories of the past and their old associations were too much for them to longer gather thus.

This account, meager and perhaps faulty at points, is compiled at the instance of Mr. Francis Wait, who furnishes most of the details. Some are given by Miss Emma, daughter of Colonel Law, and some by Mr. Frederic Symmes, who attended a few meetings, and probably their final one, with his father, who is the only survivor* of the 18-18 Boys of Medford.

*See following article.

MARSHALL SYMMES OF UPPER MEDFORD.

Since the preceding article on the 18-18 Boys was prepared, Marshall Symmes, the last of the company, has passed away. His death occurred on July 19, 1911, at his home in Winchester, of which town he was the oldest resident. He always lived near his birthplace, which was, in 1818 and till 1850, in that part of Upper Medford known as Symmes' Corner. He was seventh in descent from Rev. Zachariah Symmes, the first minister of the Charlestown church.

The ancestral home was upon the minister's farm, granted to him in those early colonial days. Some portions have never passed from, but are still in the family name. The location being in that part of old Charlestown lying northwest of Medford, its residents were obliged to journey through the latter to their meeting-house, and in 1754 their section was annexed thereto.

Incidentally we notice that Governor Brooks was a *native* of Charlestown (and not of Medford, as has been stated), having been born in what became the former residence of Marshall Symmes, and at a date prior to the annexation to Medford.

Reverend Zachariah had a large posterity, many of whom were artisans of various crafts, as well as farmers and professional men, and their mills and shops were scenes of busy industry in the days long gone. At the present time the Marshall Symmes farm is passing somewhat into residential sites, but the name of Symmes' Corner clings to the locality, with its diverging streets, though that of Upper Medford has been well-nigh forgotten by the incorporation of Winchester.

A MEDFORD PROPHECY FULFILLED.

In a breezy article on "Men We Know," in "Medford, Past and Present," George S. Delano, less than seven years ago, made this prophecy, "He will be one of America's highest church officials, granting that his life is spared." Ere a year had passed a former Medford curate, the Rev. William O'Connell, who had begun his priesthood at St. Joseph's Church, was appointed coadjutor to Archbishop Williams of Boston, and another year succeeded him on the arch-episcopal throne.

A man of rare gifts, strong personality, tireless effort, and beloved of all, his recent elevation to the Cardinalate in the Roman Church is noted with satisfaction by many Medford people beside those of his own faith.

It is said that he loved Medford, and was much interested in her welfare during his work here and would willingly have served his people longer and become the parish priest. It was, however, the old story of faithfulness in small things that brings advancement, and the good will of his former townsmen follows him to the high position in his church to which he has been elevated.

Cardinal O'Connell is not the only man who has begun here a career of usefulness. Scattered all along the years

of the old town's history may be found the record of those who have here labored, and their endeavors should be an incentive to the youth of today.

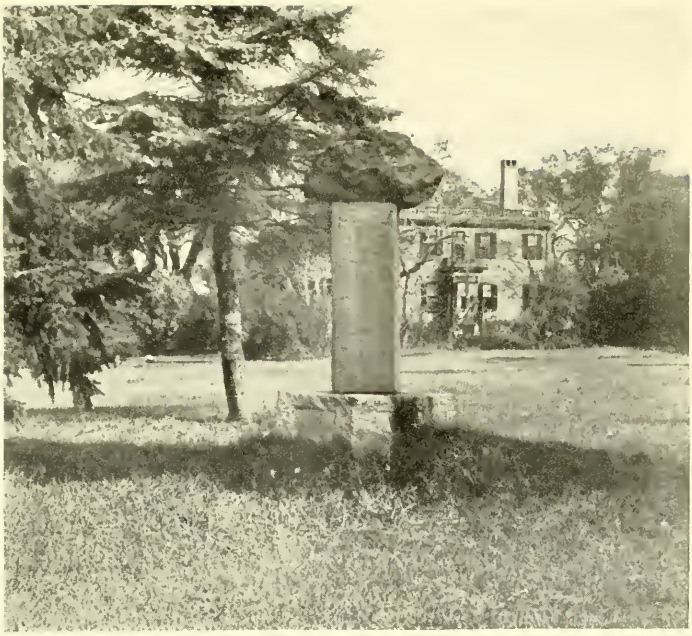
Doubtless our Medford prophet rejoices in the fulfilment of his prophecy.

THE PASSING OF A MEDFORD ESTATE.

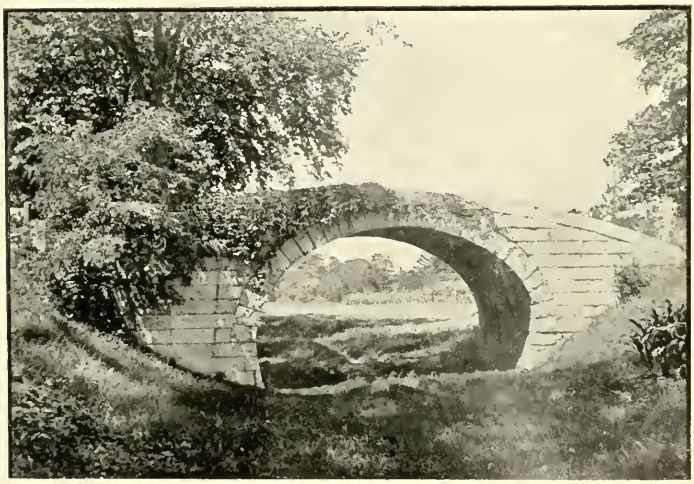
For two hundred and fifty years the name of Brooks has been associated with Medford, as Thomas Brooks bought part of the Cradock farm in 1660. His son Caleb lived in the "mansion house" of Golden Moore, mentioned by Edward Collins in his deed. Since Caleb (the first resident of the Brooks name), successive generations have there had their homes until the recent sale of the estate (including the mansion built by Peter C. Brooks in 1802) to a real estate trust. During the century gradual disposals have been made, but the latest will produce the change most marked.

In 1803 the Middlesex canal, and in 1835 the Lowell railroad, were opened for travel through it. Early in the fifties the southern portion came into the possession of Thomas P. Smith. Oak Grove Cemetery is in the northern border, and also enlarged from this estate. Next, the Playstead took a portion along Whitmore brook, and the residential section near the Gleason school followed. In more recent years the Mystic Valley Parkway has bordered the lake, and the Mystic hickories that were sizable trees when Paul Revere rode by, overlook its winding way.

In the years before the Revolution the home of another Thomas Brooks, "the marrying justice," was at the right of Grove street. The spot is marked by "the old slave wall," and the great black-walnut tree stood before it. It was demolished in 1865, after the building of the stone house on the hill top. Just across the road was the home of Rev. Edward Brooks, who rode away "in his full bottomed wig," and gun in hand followed the British troops on the eventful morning of the first Patriots' Day. This



INDIAN MONUMENT AT WEST MEDFORD.



BRIDGE OVER MIDDLESEX CANAL, IN BROOKS ESTATE, WEST MEDFORD.

Courtesy of Medford Mercury.

has also gone, probably after his son Peter C., built the present mansion.

In improving his estate he erected, in 1820, a granite arch spanning the canal, at a cost of a thousand dollars. Its architect was George Rumford Baldwin, who had just attained his majority, and this was one of his earliest works. The name of the builder is unknown, but it is related that fifty years afterward he came and viewed with pleasure and satisfaction the work of his younger days. The granite composing it was boated from Concord, N. H., down the Merrimac and the canal.

For a little over thirty years its graceful curves were reflected in the placid waters till the canal was abandoned, killed by the rival railroad. Three years later Rev. Charles Brooks wrote of it, hoping it would "always remain, a gravestone to mark where the highway of the waters lies buried." For fifty-six years it had thus remained, when one day, after an imperilled year of doubtful fate, it was, stone by stone, pulled down. Thus "a thing of beauty," missed by many, was sacrificed in the extension of Boston avenue along the old canal site.

It has been said that the "Real Estate Trust" was ignorant of its historic associations, and had so far progressed as to make change in its plans impracticable. However this may be, this bridge, the admired subject of frequent remark, the study of architects and artists and well known by its numerous pictures, succumbed to the commercialism of today.

It might have been a valuable asset in an artistic survey of the once beautiful estate, the central object in a park that would have added beauty thereto, whose value need not be estimated in square feet of land and less by cubic feet of stone.

. . . . . .

In later years, during some excavation, an Indian burial place was found. The bones of the aborigines thus exhumed were given appropriate sepulture by Mr. Francis Brooks, and a unique monument erected with this inscription, "To Sagamore John and those Mystic Indians

whose bones lie here." In recent time this monument, with the vault beneath, has been placed near the bridge site by the present owners of the estate, where it is hoped it may ever remain. An account of the same may be found in the *Medford Mercury*, as also in a previous issue a detailed description of the bridge.

Officers for the Year ending January, 1913.

President.

HENRY E. SCOTT.

Vice-Presidents.

ROSEWELL B. LAWRENCE. BENJAMIN F. FENTON.
FREDERICK H. KIDDER. LEONARD J. MANNING.

Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

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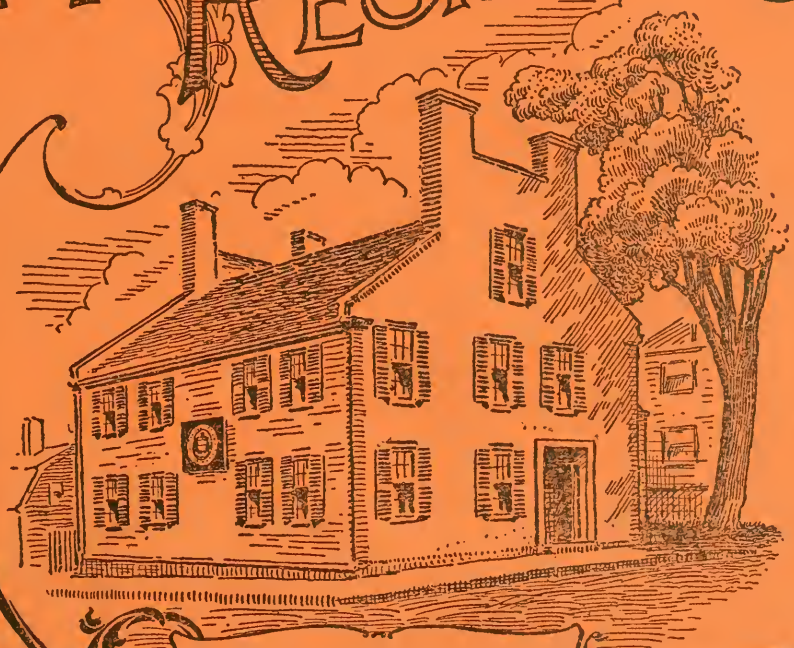
HISTORICAL REGISTER



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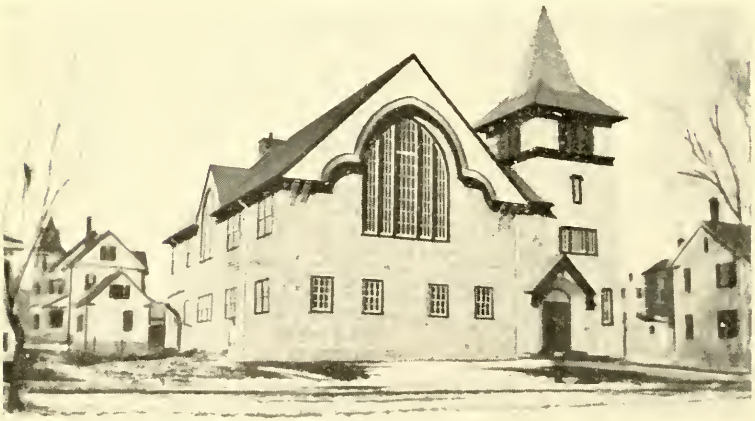


UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. XV. APRIL, 1912. NO. 2.

UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

[Read before the Medford Historical Society by Henry B. Doland, May 15, 1911.]

IT is a privilege to be able to say a few words relating to the beginnings of any organization that belongs to those constructive forces that make for righteousness and progress in any community. Although the narrative may have little that is picturesque in it, still it is proper and fitting that such facts as can be collected from the brief records that have been kept should be brought together. They may not only interest those who are now concerned, but they may assist some one who in the future may have the privilege of writing the history of the good work yet to be done, under greater opportunities, in the larger field that opens more and more widely as the years glide onward.

Then, too, one takes pleasure in giving testimony of the simple faith and sacrifice of those who were the pioneers in any movement, whose purpose was wholly altruistic, who labored that others might enjoy the fruit of their labors, and that people yet to be might enjoy greater civil or religious privileges. This was made possible by the sacrifice of those whose convictions led them to believe that some way, somehow, they were fulfilling the will of God, and thereby blessing their fellowmen.

Some churches spring into existence out of controversy, and some are evolved out of persecution, or more often are the product of some great religious movement or awakening. In any such case, where men are strongly stirred, and where deep zeal or passion is a factor, the narrative takes on tone and color, and excites interest and attention almost without effort; but the story that is to be briefly told in this account is that of a church

whose life began in the quietest, most prosaic manner, with no excitement, no upheaval, and which owed its origin to no such causes, but rather to the consciousness on the part of its founders that a place convenient for the public worship of God was a necessity in the community, and that the duty of providing and maintaining such a place rested upon them. It will be the story of the feeble beginning of a modest little enterprise, whose originators had no vision of the future, nor anticipated the busy thoroughfares and the teeming life that was yet to cross the quiet fields in the neighborhood where they erected their first altar and opened the doors of their first house of prayer. Although scarce twenty-five years have passed since then, most of those who organized Union Church have finished their labors and passed on to the greater church in Heaven. So far as I can learn, only two families of those who formed her early congregations now worship within her walls.

Five and twenty years ago that section of Medford, now known as South Medford, had very little in common with the rest of the town, and was occupied by about one hundred and twenty families, three-fourths of whom were Protestants. A few of these were associated with the two churches then on Winter Hill in Somerville, and a few others attended the churches in Medford Center. The long, lonely walk to Medford, cold and bleak in winter and hot in summer, and the wearisome climb up Winter Hill, tended to keep many away from church, who would have been glad to attend had there been a more convenient place of worship.

In 1887 the Home Missionary Society of the Congregational Churches engaged Rev. F. I. Kelley (a student in Boston University) to hold preaching services in the chapel at the corner of Broadway and Alfred street. He found quite a company of men and women glad to assemble together for regular worship, and the movement gained such headway that the question of organizing a church soon began to be discussed. The decision was

reached that it would be wise and proper to organize. The Presbyterians had a larger number of adherents than any other denomination among those interested, and Methodists, Baptists, Episcopalians and Congregationalists also were well represented. So it became a question of much importance as to what denomination the new church should ally itself with. After much deliberation they decided that the Congregational form of church government would best satisfy their needs and desires, and somewhat to the surprise of the Congregational pastors in the vicinity, on the 29th of October, 1887, the Union Congregational made a formal beginning as a religious enterprise. It organized with a membership of fifty, twenty-eight of whom were received by letter, and twenty-two upon confession of their faith in Christ. On November 5, 1887, the Articles of Faith and Covenant were adopted by the church, and on the 12th of the same month, Alexander Robertson, Thomas Patterson and Nathaniel P. Richardson were chosen deacons. At the same meeting John G. Thompson was elected as the first clerk. On December 1, 1887, a council was held in the chapel on Broadway, which recognized the new society under the name of the Union Congregational Church of Medford. A large number of delegates from sister churches were present, and Rev. W. S. Alexander preached a sermon at the public recognition services in the evening. In organizing, the church made what was then rather a new departure in Congregational procedure. It provided that the society in whom the title to the property was vested, should consist exclusively of adult members of the church, either male or female. The old custom had been to have the society consist, not of church members alone, but of such adult males as owned or hired sittings in the meeting house. That was a custom which had resulted in the loss of many churches and property to the Congregational body. The Union Church, by vesting the title to all property in the hands of church members only, wisely provided against any future loss to the denomination.

All sittings in the church are free, and always have been so, the expenses being met by voluntary contributions. The chapel on Broadway where they worshiped was owned by private parties, who were not fully in sympathy with the idea of forming a new church. As they did not wish to sell the chapel to the new organization, that body decided to seek other quarters, and succeeded in renting the vacant store at the corner of Main and Harvard streets. After a few weeks' stay in this store, it became evident to the congregation that its new quarters were not adapted to its needs. The larger portion of the worshipers were residents of Medford, and it was their decision that the church should be located within the bounds of Medford to accommodate the community that was growing up in the vicinity of Tufts square. On February 24, 1888, the church voted to buy a lot of land on Marion street, where its present home is located. The Prudential Committee, consisting of Alexander Robertson, N. P. Richardson, Thomas Patterson, Joseph F. Hosford, Samuel Armstrong, J. C. Davidson and J. G. Thompson purchased the lot for $425. They were authorized to act as a building committee, with full power to make contract for a house of worship. On April 20, 1888, this committee reported that it had contracted to build a church edifice fifty feet by thirty feet, to be constructed of wood, on Marion street, during the summer of 1888. The church ratified the action of its committee and work was at once begun on the building.

This decision to build was not arrived at hastily. It was a brave venture to undertake to support public worship, and at the same time raise more than three thousand dollars for a new church edifice. None of the congregation could be called wealthy, and no one of them had an income from which much could be spared without a sacrifice, but they took hold courageously, and by the following November the building was framed and boarded in. Then the work had to pause, for the people had arrived at what seemed to be the limit of their resources.

The house was unclapboarded and only partly shingled, and it appeared as if the congregation could not occupy it that winter. Fortunately, friends in other churches came to the rescue, one of whom offered to give the needed shingles and clapboards if the church people would see that they were put on. They gladly accepted the offer, and the building was shingled and clapboarded.

This friendly assistance from without so inspired the local workers that they succeeded in finishing the vestry so as to make it suitable as a meeting place for the winter, and it was thus used until the main audience room was completed and the church dedicated in November, 1890.

From its starting, sister churches on Winter Hill and those in the Woburn Conference gave friendly counsel and substantial financial aid, and acting under advice and assistance of these friends the church soon completed the new edifice. The sister churches contributed the sum needed to make last payments for the same, and the house, costing $3,000, was dedicated free from debt.

The Massachusetts Home Missionary Society assisted the church in the support of a pastor from the beginning, and has continued its aid up to the present time, although the church at present comes very near to self-support, and contributes liberally toward the various missionary and benevolent organizations of the denomination. The Congregational Church Building Society has assisted towards the expense of the church building when occasion has required such aid. The Mystic Church of Medford presented the first Communion Service, and a member of that church * gave fifty settees for the first house of worship, and also provided a fine furnace and secured the bell that has for so many years called to worship.

Too much praise can hardly be bestowed upon the sacrifice and endeavor of the people themselves. As has been stated, few of the members could contribute very largely, and the continuous demand and strain upon

* The author of this paper. —[*Ed.*]

their resources discouraged the less earnest ones, causing some to withdraw, and leaving only the more devoted ones to continue the work. Among those to whose zeal and faithfulness the continued existence of the church in those early trying days is due, should be remembered Miss Janet Brown, in whose home on Marion street the church organization was first agreed upon; the Fraser sisters; the members of the Robertson, Patterson, Hosford, Richardson, Davidson and Donovan families.

To the first pastor, the Rev. Frederick I. Kelley, and to his devoted wife, are due the lasting gratitude of the members of his flock. Largely through his efforts and courage came the measure of success that marked the first two years of the church's existence. He did excellent work during the organization and building period of the church life. It was his first pastorate, and he threw himself into his trying labors with all the energy of his young manhood. His sermons were earnest and excellent, and he was faithful in his pastoral calling. He resigned July 16, 1889, to accept the call to the Congregational Church at Pigeon Cove, Mass., and his parish soon realized that it would be fortunate indeed if it could secure a successor who would be his equal. He is now pastor of the Old First Church in Derry, N. H., where he has been settled for several years.

On October 27, 1889, Rev. C. C. Bruce, a resident of Medford, came to preach as a supply, and November 3, 1889, was chosen pastor for six months, and continued to serve in that capacity until May 29, 1891. He was a scholarly man and a student, but his physical condition was such that he was not able to do the work needful in a new parish, and as a consequence the church steadily lost ground. Shortly after resigning his pastorate a stroke of apoplexy caused a complete breakdown, and after a few months of suffering he passed away.

The church had no settled pastor after Mr. Bruce's departure until August 14, 1891, when Rev. Benjamin A. Dean came to fill that office. He was a man of intense activity and extended experience. He labored

zealously to upbuild the church, in which endeavor he was faithfully seconded by his wife. During his ministry and through his suggestion and efforts the lot of land next west of the church was purchased and paid for. This proved a wise investment, and a tribute to his enterprise and foresight. The continued growth of the community encouraged the Baptists of South Medford to institute services and organize a church of that order. This drew away quite a number of valued helpers from Union Church and lessened the attendance of both congregation and Sabbath School, and thereby somewhat discouraged both pastor and people. The outlook had then so little of promise that the Home Missionary Society decided that it was inadvisable to any longer assist the enterprise. It withdrew its financial assistance, and matters continued in an unsatisfactory condition until the close of Mr. Dean's pastorate in August, 1895, when he became pastor in Coldbrook, Conn. So far as numerical or financial advance was concerned, the church made little progress during this pastorate. At its close there was much anxiety as to the future, for although the neighborhood was making a substantial growth the church was not. But with the coming of Rev. Isaac Pierson to the pastorate, December 6, 1895, new life and interest began to be manifested. The congregations and contributions were largely increased, new members were added at almost every communion season. An unusually large proportion of them were young men and young women, who made their presence and energy felt in the Endeavor Society and the Sabbath School. There was probably no church in the city that had so large a proportion of young people in its membership. All seemed to feel that a better day was at hand, and several hundred dollars were raised and expended in improving the house of worship. At no time in its history had the church seen such evidences of prosperity. The work glowed and the situation was so full of promise in 1901 that a committee was appointed to consider ways and means of

so increasing the capacity of the building as to meet the requirements of the rapidly growing Sabbath School.

This committee, consisting of Messrs. H. B. Doland, H. L. Jones, W. H. Hodgman, G. S. Whitehead and P. H. Hodgman, studied the situation and reported at the annual meeting of the church, October 18, 1901. Its recommendations were adopted, and the society voted to authorize the expenditure of $2,125 to make the proposed alterations and enlargement.

An effort to raise the required sum began at once, and met with such success that by the following April the sum of $1,300 was conditionally pledged, with excellent prospects of raising the entire amount before fall. But in April, 1902, when the church was in a state of revival and all interests seemed progressing favorably, conditions were unhappily changed by one of those unfortunate and uncalled-for incidents that sometimes interrupt and hinder the progress of churches as well as of individuals. This incident so unsettled affairs that the pledges were largely withdrawn, and the plans for enlargement were held in abeyance until difficulties might be cleared away and prosperity return again.

Mr. Pierson was the first pastor of Union Church to be installed or dismissed by council, and continued in his office until October 3, 1903, a period of almost eight years. To him more than to any other was due the cessation of pool selling at the race tracks in South Medford, an accomplishment greatly to his credit, and to which, as to all his duties, he gave his best energies.

After his resignation he removed to Wellesley Hills where he now resides. He left the church much stronger than it was at his coming, with a membership of about one hundred and a Sabbath School of more than two hundred members. Although there was a serious division at the time of his departure, the trouble that overshadowed the work began to pass away soon after the arrival of his successor, the Rev. John Wild, formerly of Hanover, Mass., who began his pastorate May 1, 1904.

FIRST HOUSE OF WORSHIP.

REV. F. I. KELLEY.

REV. ISAAC PIERSON.

Mr. Wild's ministry has been one of reconciliation and upbuilding. He found a rapidly growing community, with new families needing and seeking a church home and religious influences, and he has striven to the limit of his powers to meet the demands that the situation presented. Seven years of his pastorate have just been completed, and the results are very creditable to the efforts both of himself and of the faithful corps of men and women who have rallied under his leadership.

During the first year of his pastorate it became necessary to expend several hundred dollars for improvements, but it was realized that no temporary or minor changes would be sufficient. Evidently the church building itself was not and could not be made commodious enough to meet the increasing demands of the neighborhood, and the question of how best to provide sufficient accommodations was earnestly considered. The decision was reached that a larger and more modern house of worship was absolutely necessary, and a building committee was chosen and authorized to take action looking thereto.

The committee consisted of the pastor, with William H. Hodgman chairman, N. P. Richardson, George W. Pitts, P. H. Hodgman, D. W. Lawson, Wallace Campbell, Mrs. E. E. Armstrong and Mrs. Perkins to represent the church, and Charles H. Rutan and F. S. Norton to represent the Congregational Church Union. Architects and friends were brought into consultation and plans were finally accepted that called for a total expenditure of $12,500. The contract was awarded to George H. Archibald, builder, of Medford. The architects were Messrs. Brainerd and Leeds of Boston.

All friends now rallied to the labor of raising funds to pay for the new temple, for it was determined, if it were possible, to dedicate it free from debt. The people of Medford assisted generously; the Congregational Church Union of Boston gave $2,700; the Old South Church of that city, $5,000; the sister churches of Woburn Conference, $1,150; and the added efforts of the faithful

pastor and his zealous people completed the amount required.

The former house of worship was torn down, and the hall of Lincoln School on Harvard street was secured for a meeting place until the new church was finished. On September 25, 1909, the corner-stone of the new edifice was laid with impressive exercises, which were participated in by the clergy and laymen of the various Protestant churches, and by our mayor, Clifford M. Brewer, who represented the City of Medford.

The work progressed favorably, and the completed house was dedicated February 20, 1910, in the presence of a large and happy assemblage. The church has cause for rejoicing, not only for the completion of the house, but for the display of friendship, and substantial aid extended to them by Christian brethren and the public in general.

The total cost of building and furnishings was $13,700, and the total value of the entire property is rated at $17,000, all clear of any encumbrance.

The edifice is a framed wooden building, one hundred feet by sixty feet, with a large square tower at the southeast corner. The audience room on the second floor has a seating capacity of three hundred and fifty, with class rooms and study in the rear. The vestries and parlors on the ground floor furnish the much-needed and long-desired appliances for the Sabbath School, and for the devotional and social meetings of the church.

During Mr. Wild's pastorate one hundred and twenty-four members have been added to the church roll, making the present number two hundred and two. The complete list of the deacons as per records is, Alexander Robertson, Thomas Patterson, N. P. Richardson, Joseph F. Hosford, George L. Daniels, Walter Nelson, Henry B. Doland, C. A. Van Winkle, William F. Kilton, Harry L. Jones, Israel H. Slocum, Albert Carson, P. H. Hodgman, D. W. Lawson and William R. Faulkner. The Sabbath School, including the Home Department and Cradle

Roll, has three hundred and seventy-one members. The membership of both church and school shows a steady and gratifying increase, and progress is evident along every line.

There have been some very earnest men and women who have very greatly aided in the work of the Sabbath School, and those who have there served as superintendents are recorded as follows: —

John G. Thompson.	Rev. F. I. Kelley.
N. P. Richardson.	James Donovan.
C. A. Van Winkle.	Percy H. Hodgman.

Mrs. E. J. Fuller, Superintendent of Primary Department.
Mrs. Armstrong, Superintendent of Primary Department.

In no department of its activities does the church better serve the needs of the community than in its school. The vicinity is rich in children, and the school has ministered to them with marked success. To no party should more credit be given for this success than to him who for fifteen years or more has faithfully and with untiring zeal acted as the superintendent of the Senior Department of the school. Mrs. Ella J. Fuller, who served as superintendent of the Primary Department for several years, did most excellent and effective work there, and her successors have well followed her lead.

Although many names have been referred to as among the faithful and efficient members, those who know the inner history of Union Church will feel that the lasting gratitude of the church is due to Deacon Harry L. Jones, formerly of Medford (now of Newton, Mass.) for his financial assistance in trying times. But time would fail me to tell of all those faithful souls, both men and women, whose faith and labors have brought the undertaking from a beginning so feeble, so frail, worthy not so much of admiration as of pity, to an expansion so ample, a progress so steady, a promise, yet to be fulfilled, that will, we trust, be glorious.

In the year 1810 Eaton S. Barrett, in his poem entitled "Woman," writes,

"Not she with trait'rous kiss her Saviour stung;
Not she denied Him with unholy tongue;
She, while apostles shrank, could danger brave,
Last at His cross, and earliest at His grave."

And his words, dedicated to the women of the early church, are not altogether inapplicable to many of the noble company of consecrated women of Union Church who, throughout its entire history, in season and out of season, through heat or cold, have never failed to inspire and assist at each and every time of need.

And it is altogether fitting and proper to here affirm that, had it not been for the steadfast allegiance and continued financial support of the ladies, acting through their earlier organization, the Ladies' Aid Society, and its successor, the Ladies' Christian League, the subject of this story could never have attained to more than a small measure of its present achievement.

In all lines of activity and sacrifice their devotion and service have been foremost factors in continuing and expanding the usefulness of their beloved church.

As one looks back over the quarter of a century and recalls face after face of that devoted band of women, some still a part of the church on earth and others numbered with the greater company of the redeemed in Heaven, there comes a deep feeling of regret that the scope of this article permits of only a general rather than an individual tribute of praise to be given here and now.

"The Master praises: what are men?"

Among the pleasing facts to state about this organization is that it has been blessed in having had a succession of pastors who strove to preach the Gospel; men who have not been infected with the fever of doubt and radicalism that has disturbed and helped to decimate too many Congregational churches. Whatever any of them may have failed in, not one has failed to give an evangelical note to his preaching. And the people, too, are as strongly evangelical in faith and practice as their

pastors have been, and have little toleration and less respect for that imported gospel that now and then comes to us from some German theological toy shop.

It is time to draw this article to a close, but before doing so a word of tribute will be permitted to the last of this group of pastors, the Rev. John Wild, who passed away, October 25, 1911. It is a valuable asset to any religious society to have as its leader one whom the whole community respects for his manly and ministerial qualities, and one whom the somewhat narrower circle of intimates loves and esteems as a pastor or friend. Such a man was the one whom I have just named. He came to this city seven years ago to a parish presenting many problems that he realized would tax all his powers and faculties, and he has more than fulfilled all that could be asked of him. His works bear ample testimony to his sterling worth as an organizer and a Christian leader and pastor.

> "His life was gentle; and the elements
> So mixed in him, that Nature might stand up
> And say to all the world, 'This was a man!'"

In closing this brief review of the past, with its detail of successful struggle and endeavor, we proffer this to the church as a guiding principle for the future: —

> "Give to the winds thy fears;
> Hope, and be undismayed;
> God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears,
> God shall lift up thy head."

THE WALNUT TREE HILL DIVISION OF THE STINTED PASTURE.

[Read before the Medford Historical Society by John H. Hooper, February 19, 1912.]

In the year 1637 the large tract of land situated at the present time within the limits of the Cities of Somerville and Medford, being a part of the common lands of the Town of Charlestown, was divided into rights of pasturage. A large committee was chosen to do this, or "to stint the common," and to determine the number of cow-commons which one hundred and thirteen inhabitants should have in this pasture. The agreement was as follows: "In consideration of the straitness of common on this side of the Mistick river it was agreed that all the ground from the town to Menotomies river that is without the enclosures, shall be reserved in common for such cattle as are necessarily to be taken care of near home, as milch cows, working cattle, goats and calves of the first year and each one to have a propriety of the same, according to the proportions underwritten for such cattle above specified, either of their own or any they should let, unto the same kind and not otherwise —."

In the year 1685 that portion of the common lands situated between Menotomy road (Broadway) and Mystic river and bounded westerly by Menotomy river (Alewife brook) and easterly by Governor John Winthrop's "Ten Hills farm," and known as the Walnut Tree hill division of the stinted pasture, was set off to the several proprietors whose names appear upon a plan hereto annexed, "to be their propper right and Estate." The amount of pasturage allotted for each cow, or "Cow-Common," was three and one-half acres.

Prior to the year 1637 there were no restrictions as to the number of cattle to be pastured on the common lands, but when the number increased so that the pasturage was insufficient, it became necessary to stint the pasture, or to limit the number of cattle to be pastured there by each inhabitant. Hence the term of "The Stinted Pasture."

There were three roads, or rangeways, laid out through this pasture, that extended northerly from the Menotomy road to Mystic river, and were called the first, second and third rangeways. These rangeways were laid out two rods in width and the width between the ways was eighty rods, making the width of each range or plot of land forty rods. The first rangeway is mostly closed at the present day, only a small portion being now visible where it connected with the Menotomy road.

When Lieut.-Gov. John Usher owned the Royall farm he purchased a portion of the stinted pasture and closed a portion of this rangeway. A complaint was made to the selectmen of Charlestown that he had stopped up a rangeway running through his farm and he was ordered to open the way forthwith. There is no evidence that this order was complied with. The ancient ford was situated at the Medford end of this rangeway.

The second way is laid out as a public way and is known as Curtis street in the City of Somerville and Winthrop street in the City of Medford. Near this rangeway and close to the river stood the house of James Tufts, also the shipyards of Paul Curtis and Jotham Stetson.

The third way is also a public way and is known as North street in both cities. This street, as laid out, varies somewhat from the location of the rangeway. Prior to the laying out of these two ways they were encroached upon and in some places entirely closed by the adjoining owners.

The third rangeway was sometimes called Cook's lane. There are four ways leading westerly from the third rangeway, two of them to the marshes through land of Lieut. John Cutler. The third way was situated between land of John Blaney and land of Susanna White, leading to the land of John Dickson, and was called the way to Dickson's land.

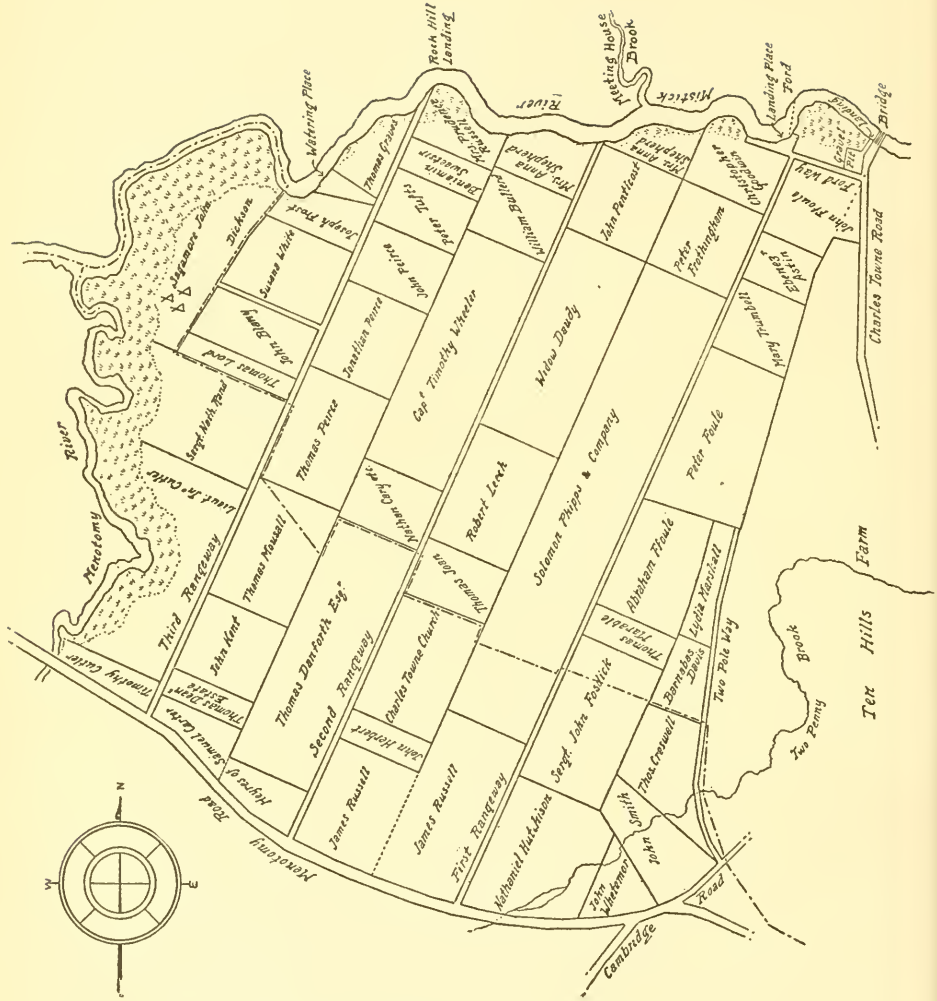
The fourth way, situated between land of Joseph Frost and land of Thomas Graves, led to the common landing

or watering place. This way was two rods in width where it connected with the rangeway and along the river; the length of the landing place was thirteen and one-half rods. This landing place was known in recent years as Second Beach, and by the action of the Metropolitan Park Commission in changing the course of the river this landing has been obliterated. The house of the Rev. William Smith stood on land shown as that of Thomas Graves.

Another way, two rods in width, was laid out from the highway now known as Warner street in the City of Somerville and Harvard street in the City of Medford. The easterly line of this way was the westerly boundary of Governor Winthrop's Ten Hills farm, and is in part the boundary line between the Cities of Medford and Somerville. This way extended to Peter Foule's lot, it being the lot now owned by the heirs of the late George L. Stearns and upon which their mansion house is situated. The spring on said heirs' land, over which the brick tower stands, is on land formerly belonging to the Ten Hills farm.

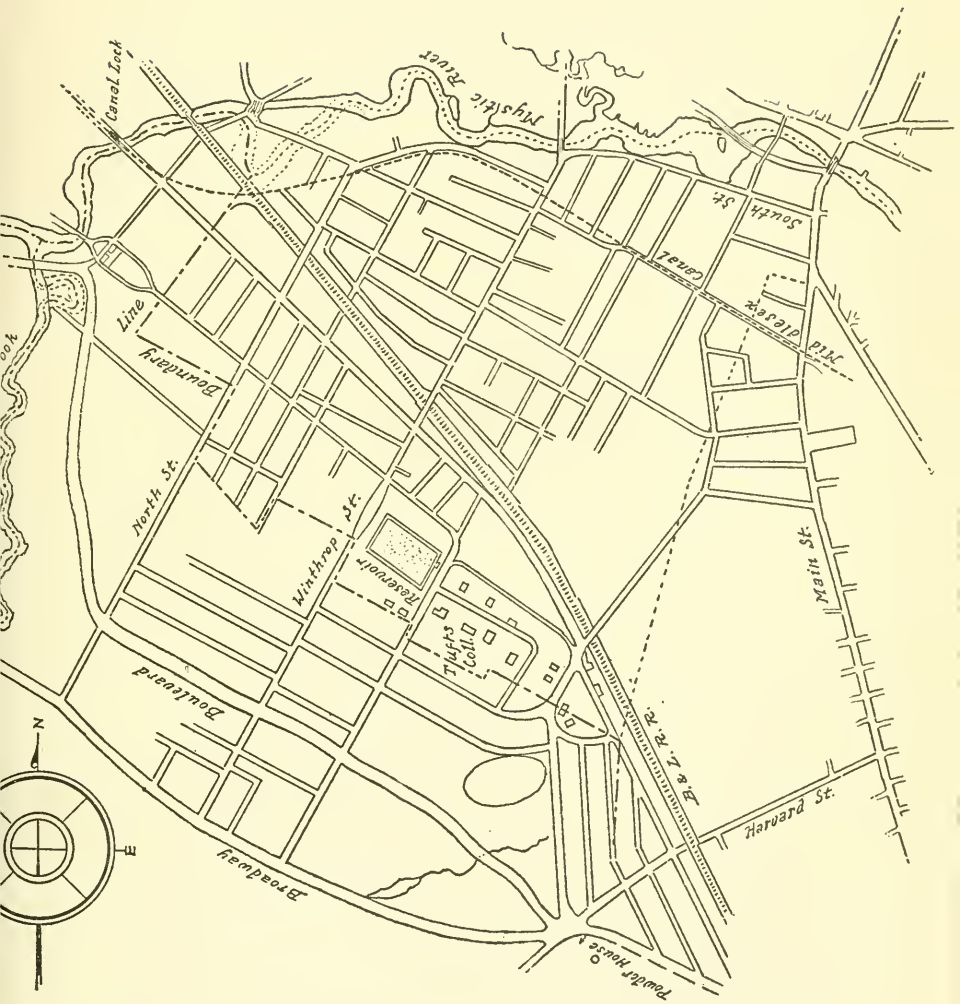
There was a way two rods in width called in the early days "the way to the ford," and in later times "Fish-house lane," which extended from the highway (Main street) to land of Christopher Goodwin, the northerly line of whose land was in part bounded by this way. The southerly end of the ancient ford or landing place was on the northerly side of this way, opposite land of Goodwin, and contained about one-half an acre. A portion of this landing place is now a part of the estate of Mr. F. E. Chandler. This location was the site of the ship-yard of Mr. James Ford, and later the yard of Mr. George Fuller. This way is now known as South street. The improvements made by the Metropolitan Park Commission have destroyed this landing place.

In the year 1644 Gov. John Winthrop, in his journal, describes the following incident as taking place at a ford in Mystic river. From a careful study of the story it is



WALNUT TREE HILL DIVISION OF THE STINTED PASTURE IN 1685.

(Dotted Lines Show Present Municipal Bounds.)



SECTION OF CITY MAPS, 1910, WITH COURSE OF CANAL ADDED.

evident that the ford referred to was at this place, and that the parties lived near the farmhouse of Governor Cradock (called Meadford on the ancient maps) which was located near the present square.

"One Dalkin and wife dwelling near Meadford, coming from Cambridge where they had spent their Sabbath and being to pass over the River at a Ford, the tide not being fallen enough, the husband adventured over, and finding it too deep, persuaded his wife to stay awhile, but it raining very sore, she would needs adventure over, and was carried away with the stream past her depth, her husband not daring to go help her, cried out and thereupon his dog, being at his house near by, came forth, and seeing something in the water, swam to her, and she caught hold on the dog's tail, so he drew her to the shore and saved her life."

The Town of Charlestown, by vote passed May 8, 1723, sold, through its committee, to Aaron Cleveland and Samuel Kendall, about one-half an acre, upland and marsh, near the great bridge, "The Gravel Pit," together with a two-pole way leading down to the river, above the upper side of the bridge. This sale was authorized upon the condition that the grantee maintain and repair the said town's half of Mystic bridge and causeway adjoining and also build a dwelling house (within two years) of two stories, thirty-six feet long and eighteen feet wide, two rooms upon a floor. These premises afterwards came into the possession of Mr. Ebenezer Merrow, who proceeded to fence in the two-pole way leading to the river, but was brought before the court and fined for so doing. The Central Fire Engine House is now located upon this lot.

It will be remembered that all that part of the City of Medford south of the river was a part of the Town of Charlestown until the year 1754. The two-pole way is now included in Main street and the landing place is covered by the foundations of the Cradock bridge. Walnut Tree hill took its name from the walnut trees growing upon it.

The parties to whom these lots were granted were obliged to pay the Town of Charlestown for the wood

standing on their lots, as will appear by the records of that town, and it is evident that at that date (1685) there was still quite a forest standing upon this pasture. It was within the limits of this pasture, portions of which were then covered with a thick forest, that Governor Winthrop lost his way while taking a walk and was obliged to pass a night in an Indian hut. According to a map made about the year 1633, Sagamore John, son of the Squa Sachem, had a residence on the westerly slope of Walnut Tree hill, near the pumping station of the Mystic Water Works.

An illustration of the condition of this pasture is afforded by the incident above referred to, and which is related in Winthrop's "History of New England": —

"October 11, 1631, the Governor, being at his house at Mistick, walked out after supper, and took a piece in his hand, supposing he might see a wolf (for they came daily about the house and killed swine, calves, etc.) and being about half a mile off, it grew suddenly dark, so as in coming home, he mistook his path and went till he came to a little house of Sagamore John, which stood empty. There he stayed and having a piece of match in his pocket (for he always carried about him, match and a compass and in the summer snake weed), he made a good fire near the house and lay down upon some old mats, which he found there, and so spent the night, sometimes walking by the fire, sometimes singing psalms and sometimes getting wood, but could not sleep. It was (through God's mercy) a warm night, but a little before day it began to rain, and, having no cloak, he made shift by a long pole to climb up into the house. In the morning there came thither an Indian Squaw but perceiving her before she opened the door, he barred her out, yet she stayed there a great while assaying to get in. At last she went away and he returned safe home. His servants having been much perplexed for him, and having walked about and shot off pieces, and hallooed in the night, but he heard them not."

The Governor's house at Mystic stood upon the southeasterly slope of Winter hill, within the present limits of the City of Somerville, a short distance from the boundary line between the Cities of Medford and Somerville.

Lieut.-Col. Charles Lidgett came into full possession of Ten Hills farm in the year 1685. Colonel Lidgett

was the friend and adherent of Sir Edmund Andros, the first royal governor of New England during the Inter-Charter period. The assertion of Governor Andros that the abrogation of the first colonial charter re-invested all land titles in the Crown caused wide-spread consternation. Some proprietors endeavored to strengthen their titles by procuring deeds from the Indians, which acts brought forth from the Governor the criticism "That their hand was no more worth than the scratch of a bear's paw." He confirmed to his friend Colonel Lidgett his title to the Ten Hills farm, and also granted him the stinted pasture. Colonel Lidgett then began to prosecute the rightful owners of this pasture for cutting wood and other alleged trespasses. This grant became void upon the downfall of the Andros administration. Colonel Lidgett was arrested and thrown into prison at the time of the arrest of Governor Andros. He was released on bail and went to England in February, 1689–'90, where he died in 1698.

At the time Colonel Lidgett went to England the northerly part of his farm was leased to Thomas Marabel. This lease contained one hundred acres, a part of which was a portion of the stinted pasture. It is supposed that he resided in the old part of the Royall house, as there was no other dwelling house upon the Ten Hills farm within the present limits of the City of Medford except the farm house occupied by Joseph Whittemore, which stood on the site recently occupied by the Mystic house, and which was removed to the brick-yard on Buzzell's lane, near College hill, where it was destroyed by fire less than a year ago.

In the year 1662 Lieut. Richard Sprague agreed with the selectmen of Charlestown to make up and maintain

"All that fence belonging to said common, between it and Mr. Winthrop's farm, which said fence is to begin at Mistick bridge and so along in the line between the said common and Mr. Winthrop's farm, to a rock which is for a bound mark about some six

or seven poles on the southeast side of Winter's brook, where it is to meet Mr. Winthrop's farm fence. The fence is to be made sufficiently, and so maintained for one and twenty years. In consideration whereof the said Lieutenant Richard Sprague is to have the use of twenty Cow Commons for the full term of twenty-one years. Also liberty to make use of any stones or brush from the Common for making and repairing said fence. It was also agreed that what the said fence shall be adjudged worth at the end of the aforesaid term of one and twenty years more than it is at the present is to be payed unto the said Richard Sprague or his Assigns. The fence at present is adjudged worth thirty pounds by mutual consent."

Tufts College is situated within the limits of this pasture, upon the summit of Walnut Tree hill, now known as College hill. The boundary line between the Cities of Somerville and Medford passes through its grounds. The establishment of the college was the work of the Universalist denomination. It received its name from Mr. Charles Tufts of Somerville, who gave it twenty acres of land upon the condition that it be made the site of a college and should bear his name. He afterwards increased his gift of land to the amount of nearly one hundred acres. The charter of the college was granted by the General Court, April 21, 1852.

Walnut Tree hill is also the site of the reservoir built by the City of Charlestown as a part of its Mystic water supply. Ground was broken for this reservoir in the spring of the year 1861.* After Mystic pond was abandoned as a water supply this reservoir fell into disuse. It is now used as a part of the water supply system of the Metropolitan Water Works.

Across this pasture was located the Middlesex Canal, thirty feet in width and four feet deep. Chartered June 22, 1793, discontinued 1852. The Boston and Lowell Railroad location also runs across this pasture. Chartered June 5, 1830.

This paper is mostly extracts from papers previously prepared and read before the Society, but it was deemed

* Mr. Hooper was present and witnessed the ceremony. The turf that covered the reservoir embankment came from land near the Second beach and reimbursed the owner of the land for his purchase thereof. [*Ed.*]

expedient to embody all extracts relating to the subject in one paper in order to more fully explain the annexed maps. The lines of several lots were difficult to locate. The central lots are fairly accurate; some of those on the westerly side of the pasture near Menotomy river and those on the easterly side can only be approximately located.

A LOCAL GEOGRAPHY LESSON.

On page seven of Brooks' "History of Medford" is this statement: "There was till recently (1855) but one island in the river, and that near the shore in Malden, at Moulton's Point, and is called 'White Island.' Two have since been made, one by cutting through 'Labor in Vain,' and the other by straightening the passage above the bridge."

Mr. Brooks made no mention of the small island just below Wear bridge, though it is shown on contemporary maps and plans and was supposed to be of natural formation. It was usually considered a part of the "Smith estate" in West Medford, and was alluded to (as also its removal) by Mr. Hooper in his "History of Medford" in 1905 (page 10).

At the present writing (September, 1911) there is on its site a temporary dam of earth across the entire width of the river, as also another above the bridge, the outflow of Mystic lake being carried in an iron conduit during the deepening of the channel beneath the bridge. Steam dredging machines are completing the work begun eight years ago, alluded to by Mr. Hooper. This completed, the lower lake will be accessible for boats at its new level, the upper reach of the river having been impassable since the closing of the dam at Cradock bridge. Then will be realized the desirability of a lock in the dam which was erected at the Partings in 1863 by the City of Charlestown, which made the erstwhile Medford pond the Upper and Lower Mystic lakes. Should one be built,

it may be possible to go from Boston to "Lake Innitou" (choose between this name, Horn pond or "Lake of the Woods" of 1819) by motor boat, as well as to Spy pond in Arlington or Fresh pond in Cambridge, as Winchester is planning a water park all its own.

. . . . . .

Under date of May 2, 1856, Caleb Swan interleaved his copy of Brooks' history with the following: —

White Island is within an eighth of a mile above Malden Bridge. In very high tides it is covered with water, same as the surrounding marshes; it contains about 14 acres.

It was bought of the Town of Charlestown about 1787 by Sam[l] Swan Jr. then of Charlestown; he had the grass and sedge cut and taken to Medford in a scow, every year for many years after he lived in Medford. He then some years sold the grass to a man in Reading, for $30 a year — and sometimes for half the grass delivered to him in Medford.

After his death in 1825 the island was owned by his son Dr. Swan of Medford, who sold the crop of grass for $15 to $20 per year. In 184– he sold the island to Atwood & Brothers of Boston, for planting Oysters on the Flats. Soon after this the Flats on the East side were claimed by a person in Malden as being formerly part of the mainland of Malden, and a suit was brought, but it was shown in Court by Dr. Swan to have been an Island on the first settlement of the Country and the suit wholly failed.

Now that fifty-five years have passed, a look at White island may be of interest. When the Eastern railroad located its Boston terminus on Causeway street, removing the same from East Boston, its tracks were laid from Chelsea over the Mystic and across White island. The building of the Charlestown Gas Works had ruined the oyster beds. The island was gradually enlarged until similar filling from the Malden (Everett) shore reached it and the place was an island no longer. At the present time it is thickly covered with factories of various kinds, chemical works, and the accessories of railroad work, all in marked contrast to the days of Dr. Swan.

MEDFORD MEDICINE.

The newspapers of a century ago contain relatively as many advertisements of wonderful medicines as those of today. "Cyrus Holbrook, Druggist, At the Sign of St. Luke's Head, No. 56 Hanover Street," in the *Independent Chronicle*, Boston, Thursday, June 22, 1815, gives the following testimonial, among others, concerning the efficacy of Dr. Rolfe's Botanical drops: "Mr. Seth Bradford, of Medford, Shipwright, was 12 years afflicted with a fever sore leg, after every assistance had failed, was cured by these drops, and at his particular request the same is made known for the benefit of the public."

The *Columbian Centinel*, Boston, Wednesday morning, July 12, 1826, advertising the merits of Dr. Crawford's pills, says they may be obtained of the proprietor, and by his appointment, among others of N. Mead, Medford, Mass.

ELIZA M. GILL.

PEDIGREE OF A MEDFORD TREE.

Mrs. Ellen M. Gill rooted a cutting from a willow tree growing on the Hayes estate at Lexington. She gave it to Mr. C. N. Jones, who in 1891 planted it on the Washington School grounds. It has grown to the sizable tree now to be seen at the east side of the schoolhouse. The Lexington tree from which "Mother Gill" got the cutting was grown from a similar cutting taken from a willow at Washington's Mount Vernon estate.

E. M. G.

COMMUNICATED BY MISS ELIZA M. GILL.

Town meeting, April 4, 1796; "Voted that Benjamin Hall, Esq^{r}, Hon^{b} John Brooks Esq^{r}, James Wyman Rich^{d} Hall & Samuel Swan be a Comm^{te} to view and considder the expediency of having a Road from the Market-place to Oak's road so called & make report thereon." Query, Where was Oak's road?

AN OLD MEDFORD ADVERTISEMENT.

A well-worn paper, made from rags, torn, and with frayed edges, about six and one-quarter by seven and one-quarter inches in size, tells a bit of Medford's business history: —

DRUGS AND MEDICINES

To be Sold at the Sign of St. LUKE'S *Head, in* MEDFORD, *By*

Augustus Hunt

— ALSO —

A general affortment of

WEST-INDIA GOODS

— VIZ. —

BOHEA Tea, Souchong, do. Green, do. Weft-India Rum, Brandy, Sugars, Cinamon, Cloves, Mace, Nutmegs, Allfpice, Pepper, Figs, Tamarinds, Raifins.

☞ The above articles will be fold as cheap as can be bought in Boſton, for Caſh or Country Produce.

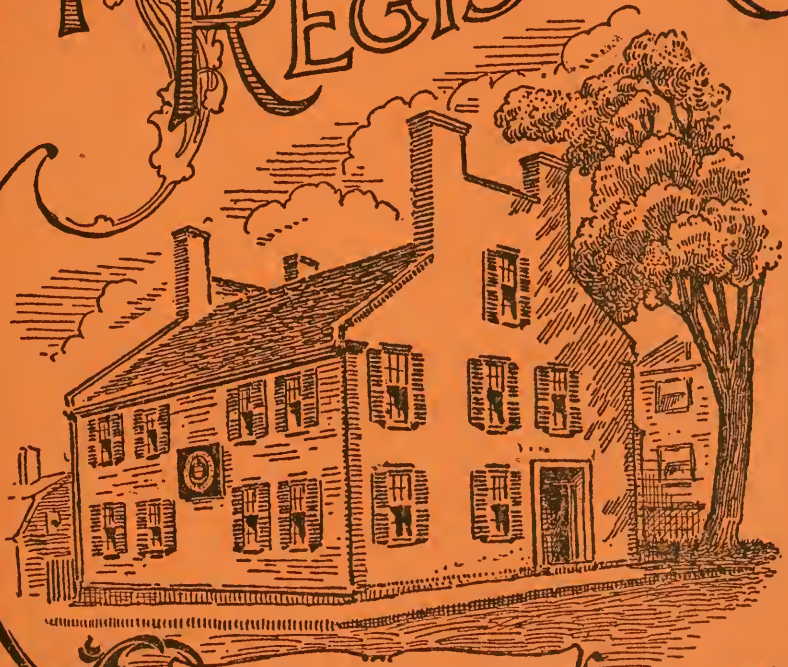
*** *Every favour gratefully acknowledged.*

Reference to the public records shows that Augustus Hunt (residence given as of Boston) married Nabby Tarbot of Medford, December 31, 1795. Query, When did Mr. Hunt open his store at the Sign of St. Luke's Head?

Recorded as born in Medford is the name Susannah Dexter Blanchard, March 19, 1795. Across the back of the above announcement is written in good black ink, "Medford June 15, 1797, Susannah Blanchard's Hair was cut of — hur Age Two yearis & Two months & 26 Days." Her fond parents evidently wrapped some hair in the paper, making record of the cutting.

XV.] [No. 3.

HISTORICAL REGISTER



JULY, 1912

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MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

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Editor, MOSES W. MANN.

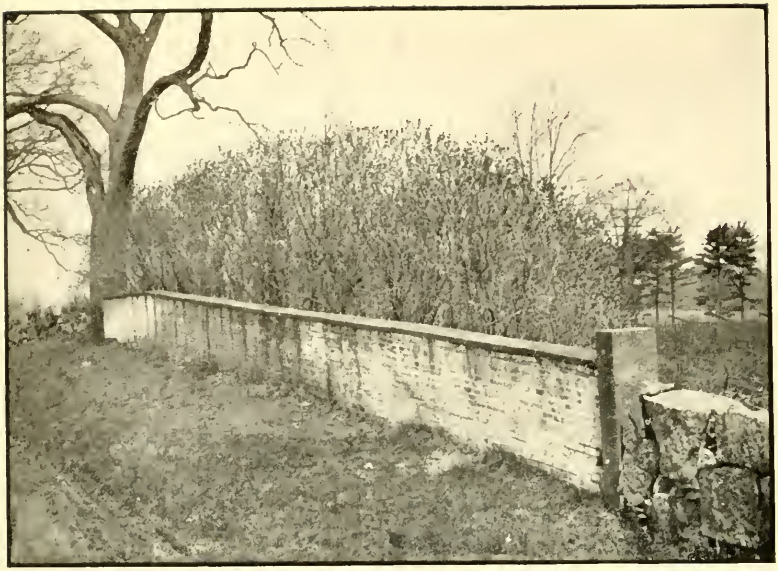
Exchange list in charge of GEO. S. T. FULLER, 7 Alfred Street.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of _____ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.



OLD SLAVE WALL.
Built by Pomp, negro of Thomas Brooks, about 1765.

JONATHAN WATSON HOUSE.

Courtesy of the Medford Mercury.

The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. XV. JULY, 1912. No. 3.

THE OLD SLAVE WALL.

[Mention of this wall, elsewhere in this issue, suggests the present writing.]

A LITTLE way up Grove street in West Medford is a brick wall, capped with thin slabs of stone, with a granite post at the southern end. Lilac bushes grow closely beside it, and till recently hid a part of it from view.

Observant passers ask "why this wall of bricks, when all the rest is of Medford granite?"

To answer this query, and to preserve a record of this Medford antiquity ere it is forgotten (or removed), the REGISTER presents as its frontispiece; "The Old Slave Wall," with this sketch thereof.

Samuel Brooks (grandson of that Thomas Brooks of Concord who purchased land of Edward Collins) is said to have lived nearly opposite the Peter C. Brooks house; which locates his home at the site of this wall.

His son Samuel, born 1700, inherited the estate, and the dwelling is mentioned as intact in 1855. It was demolished in 1860 and the materials removed. Some of its doors have been in daily use ever since in a house soon afterward built, and are good for many years more of service.

This old house, probably erected by the first Samuel, was inherited by Thomas Brooks, the village squire and noted "marrying justice."

The second Samuel had slaves, as shown by his will, and Thomas had one negro man named Pomp, who seems to have been his master's general utility man, according to our historian's mention of him. When the house was built, it was faced southward according to the

custom of the time, and three black walnut trees planted before it. It was doubtless at its erection the finest house in this quarter, and a curved driveway extended from the street, past the end of the house, and joined the street again. Beside the street and between the ends of the drive was this brick wall constructed, and bordered with a row of lilacs. Tradition has it that Pomp made the bricks, as well as built the wall, and it is doubtless true. Some fifty years ago there was a story current that the bricks were brought from England — incorrect however. Mr. Edward Brooks in 1875 told the present writer that the bricks were made from clay dug on the estate, and was much amused at such a story finding credence.

This house of Samuel, Thomas, and lastly of Gorham Brooks, is shown in the history of Medford (Brooks', '55) with the great black walnut trees before it, and also the brick wall, granite post and lilac bushes.

In this picture the house is shown with a massive chimney. A wide and latticed veranda extended around two sides, while along the edge of the lawn was a fence of two rails with a chain suspended from the post tops. In the distance the cars with the big stacked engine are seen on the railroad; these latter were a comparative novelty then.

Today but one of the trees remains — "one, but a lion," a magnificent and rare specimen of its kind. The writer can remember when there were two. It has been feared that this last might succumb, and the ground beneath and around it has been enriched. Five generations have lived and passed away since Pomp made the bricks and built the wall. The next estate is now in new ownership and new residents are coming to the ancestral acres and into the new houses being built thereon.

The faithful, honest work of the humble black man stands; a monument of his industry, a memorial of him.

It is an example of the permanency of the useful, and one of the few remaining vestiges of slavery in Medford.

A few years ago the lilacs that had overgrown the wall were removed from the street, revealing the entire wall which is supposed to have been built about a century and a half ago.

THE JONATHAN WATSON HOUSE.

WHILE the present issue of the REGISTER has been in preparation one of Medford's old houses has been demolished, preparatory to extensive improvements in the immediate vicinity.

Built by Jonathan Watson in 1738, it has, till within the past eleven years, been constantly occupied, and is worthy of more than a cursory notice.

When first erected, the Watson house had but four finished rooms, two on each floor, and two unfinished attics, the latter lighted by one window in each gable, and was of the gambrel roof type, then so much in favor. Its front door opened between the rooms into an entry, which, with the winding staircase, only occupied about a third the width of the house, the rest being filled by the massive chimney and fireplaces. The latter were at last small, having been bricked in on all sides, and underneath the massive wooden beam extending across the top and built into the masonry. According to the ancient custom of joinery, the entire end of each room next the chimney was of panelled wood-work, and the staircases mortised and tenoned so as to be self-supporting, though the lower flight had later a closet built under. The panel work was carefully removed, to be used in the renovation of the slave quarters at the Royall House.

The exterior of the house presented a quaint appearance, with its long and narrow, small-paned windows, the colonial doorway, and the weather boarding extending to the corner angles without the usual and more modern corner board.

Mr. Watson gave the west half of the house to his daughter, Abigail, the widow of Samuel Angier, probably

by will, though we have not ascertained the date of his demise. Mrs. Angier kept a "dame's school" in her only first-floor room at some time after her husband's death.

The eastern portion went to Mr. Watson's son Jonathan, who, with his sister, sold the property and moved to Upper Medford, now known as Symmes' Corner in Winchester. Timothy Fitch was the purchaser, and was then a resident of Boston and Nantucket. He never lived in this house, and it would seem that he purchased for investment. Later he became a resident of Medford, buying the home of Parson Turell not long after the latter's death, which occured in 1778.

Mr. Fitch enlarged the house by building at its rear, extending the new portion by the ends of the original house, and building a large chimney therein. This part was divided into numerous rooms, and sheds extended backward. He did not remove the old gambrel roof, but covered the new portion with a roof of one continuous slope backward, the rafters being fitted against the older ones. The attics of the older part were roughly plastered between the joists and the mode of construction easily seen.

In his turn he gave the eastern half next the meeting-house to his son Charles, then a bachelor, and the westtern to his daughter, also an Abigail. She is said to have lived and died a "*quasi*" widow, for her Scotch husband, Hugh Tarbett, was a Loyalist, and decamped with the Tories in 1776.

Charles Fitch rented his half to General John Brooks (afterwards and for seven years governor), who had taken up the practice of medicine in Medford after the Revolution. It was here that he was living when President Washington visited him while on his New England tour, in October, 1789, coming from Boston early in the morning, and going from Medford to Salem.

The Medford schoolhouse was then close by and the school kept by Mr. Prentiss. He ranged his young charges before the house, each holding a quill that the

illustrious visitor might know that they were school children. Seventy years afterward the testimony of aged residents — these former school children — was gathered up by one interested, and incidents carefully noted. Of these written, but unpublished, notes we mention a few. One who was then a young miss tells how gaily she was attired, and speaks of the polite bow the President accorded her as he passed her home. Another, a boy, and of course interested in horses, tells of the cavalcade of gentlemen that escorted Washington from Boston, and how the horses were cared for at his father's stable, where is now the vacant Magoun mansion. Another girl remembers her elders of the women telling how General Brooks requested Mrs. Brooks to have Indian corn cakes for breakfast, knowing his superior's especial liking therefor.

In after years, when a Medford boy visited Governor Brooks, who took great pride in his garden and was taking the boy about it, the Governor told him with much pleasure of his illustrious visitor, remarking that it was their last interview.

The house had a succession of tenants till in 1810 Samuel Swan became its owner and occupant, dying at sea in 1823. His widow Margaret, commonly called Peggy, Swan, continued to reside there and rented a portion of the house until her passing away.

Of the occupants during the past fifty years we can speak with certainty of but one, the last, Cleopas Johnson, who died there on December 17, 1902. He was a carpenter and builder and a thorough mechanic, as was also his partner and brother, Theophilus. The brothers were familiarly called "Cope" and "Tope" by all the old-timers of Medford. Cleopas outlived his brother. When the Unitarian Church was burned he rang the bell in alarm until the rope burned off and fell, useless.

The old Watson house has been a near neighbor to three houses of worship: the last built by the town; the Unitarian, built in 1839 (on which was the old Paul Revere

bell and the clock given by Peter C. Brooks, both in service on the former house and destroyed by the fire); and the present stone edifice of the First Parish.

Since Cleopas Johnson's death the house has been unoccupied and falling into decay. It is now to give place to dwellings of modern type and containing such accessories and conveniences as were little dreamed of when Mr. Watson built it or Doctor Brooks entertained America's first President within its walls.

The room that was the doctor's office was very unpretentious as compared with those of modern practitioners, but the fireplace where the corn cakes were cooked for Washington's breakfast was a substantial one of generous size, and supported by a massive arch in the cellar. These were in the newer part added by Timothy Fitch. The fireplaces in the original house were much larger, and the one in the west room had the "chimney corner" where the old people sat snugly ensconced beside the fire which roared up the great chimney. In this the mantle-tree was an oaken stick nine by twelve inches in size and over ten feet long. This fireplace was at first nearly three feet deep, and at two subsequent times was reduced in size by building smaller fireplaces within and shutting off the chimney corner.

The various stages of alteration were clearly defined, lime mortar being used in these, while the chimney itself was of a different kind of bricks, laid in clay mortar, with square tile for hearths.

The house was at the time of its erection a pretentious one as to style, and had the peculiarity of long windows reaching the ceiling, with blinds on the outside, made in one leaf instead of two. Some of these still remained. Probably those of two leaves that were in such marked contrast to the former replaced those destroyed in the great tornado of 1851.

The outside finish about the front door was an elaborate piece of workmanship, while the door, of more modern construction, had on its inside the old-fashioned

"barn-door hinges" of wrought iron, probably made by the village blacksmith of long ago.

About 1830 a swarm of bees took possession of a vacant space in the roof near the attic floor, remaining there several years. In the demolition of the house the workmen found evidences of the same on the boards and timbers.*

As we noticed the detail of construction and the demolition of this old landmark that has housed so many and notable people, we wondered if the workmen of today will erect their modern buildings so they may last as long as has the Jonathan Watson house that overlooked the old training green in Medford.

MEDFORD AND BUNKER HILL.

A framed certificate of membership in the Bunker Hill Monument Association issued to Joseph Wyman, Jr., hangs in the library of the Medford Historical Society. It was signed by the president, John Brooks, also by Daniel Webster, Edward Everett, John C. Warren and others.

When funds were needed for the completion of Bunker Hill Monument the women gave their help and held a fair in Quincy Hall, Boston, September 8, 1840, that lasted seven days. Twenty cities and towns supplied tables, Boston having quite a number, and on a list of forty tables *Medford* ranked number seven in the net sum handed in, making a creditable showing of $606. The *Medford* table was presided over by *Mrs. Angier* and *Mrs. Hall.*

—E. M. G.

On page 23, vol. XIV., the REGISTER gives the names of thirty-seven Medford men who contributed to the monument fund, doubtless in the earlier days of its erection.

*See REGISTER, Vol. XI, page 46, for an account of same.

The table of the Medford women in the fair in Quincy Hall was numbered 11, three Boston tables being 9, 10, 12, and Malden 13; all on the side next North Market street. The contract for the completion of the work was awarded (signed) November 4, 1840, to James Sullivan Savage for $43,800. Of this sum $30,000 was the result of the women's patriotic effort. Work was suspended in February, 1829, at a height of 37 feet; resumed June 17, 1834; again suspended November, 1835; height, 85 feet.

Steam power was first used for hoisting the granite blocks by the last builders, and on Saturday, July 23, 1842, the pyramidal capstone was hoisted in sixteen minutes, Col. Charles Carnes standing upon it, holding an American flag during the ascent. It is stated in the Monument Association's history that in all the work no one using intoxicating liquor was employed.

The above facts are taken from said book as of interest to Medford people.

Doubtless many have noticed (since the elevated cars have given the opportunity) the different color of the granite in the upper portion. Query? Was it from the same quarry at Quincy as the former?

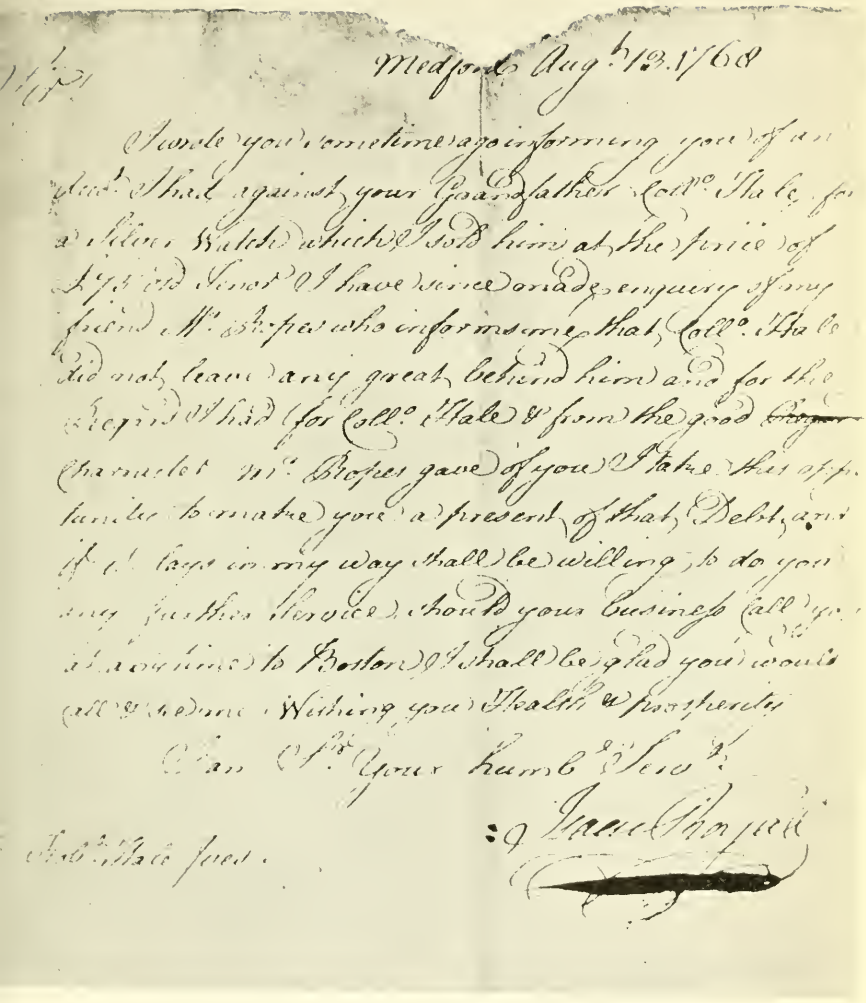
LETTER OF ISAAC ROYALL.

"A pretty good price for a silver watch," was the observation made by a banker who read the following letter of the Medford loyalist Isaac Royall, adding "seventy-five pounds, why! that's about four hundred dollars."

But the amount was in "old tenor" and about seven and one half times that of "lawful money" in 1761.

So fifty dollars (on the latter basis) would seem not an undue figure for the day of Colonel Royall, but the old fashioned time-piece would suffer in comparison with the modern Waltham watch.

Collector Robert Hale is supposed to have been His Majesty's customs officer at the port of Newbury, Mass.



Medford Aug.t 13.1768

I wrote you sometime ago informing you of an
Act. that against your Grandfather Coll.o Hale for
a Negro Wench which I sold him at the price of
£70 old Tenor & I have since made enquiry of my
friend Mr. Bishop who informs me that Coll.o Hale
did not leave any great Estate behind him and for the
Negro Wench (for Coll.o Hale) from the good Character Mr. Bishop gave of you I take this op-
portunity to make you a present of that Debt, and
if I can be in any way shall be willing to do you
any further Service. Should your Business call you
this way this Summer to Boston I shall be glad you would
call & see me. Wishing you Health & Prosperity

I am Sir Your humb.l Serv.t

Isaac Royall

Jos.h Hale Jun.r

FAC-SIMILE OF LETTER OF COLONEL ROYALL.
Photographed by C. H. Tinkham.

esy of Royall House Association.

complaint of hard work or long days then. One day Mr. Hall said to father, who was his foreman or outside manager, 'Solomon, I hope you will not drink this rum we make here, it is damaging to drink it. It is ruining many young men who came down from the country, as you did.' The rum jug was carried along with hired men (then all Americans) and was considered very necessary when haying on the marsh.

"I can remember well as far back as 1830 when but few farmers thought it proper to get through the haying season without from ten to forty gallons of rum and the stores in my part of New Hampshire sold from fifty to one hundred hogsheads of new rum a year. It was sent usually by ox and horse teams, twenty to one hundred and fifty miles back into the country. I remember the six and eight horse teams toiling over the dirt and sandy roads and mud and snow in their season; also the nine stage coaches that ran through Bedford, past our house from Concord to Nashua up to the time the cars reached Concord in June, 1842. After that we saw no more stage coaches. Few farmers required rum after the Washingtonian Revolution in 1840. The pledge then so freely taken was something like this:

"'So here we pledge perpetual hate,
To all that can intoxicate.'"

The foregoing account was written for me by Jacob W. Manning of Reading, the well-known nurseryman, a few years before his death, as being possibly of some interest to Medford people.

Mr. Manning was born in Bedford, N. H., February 20, 1826, and died in Reading, Mass., September 16, 1904.

The account is just as it came from the veteran's hand.

The Dudley Hall house referred to is on High street (present No. 57) now occupied by Dr. Charles A. Draper. Changes materially altering the grounds on the north

and west have been made, especially since the laying out of Governors avenue.

Thirty-two steps still remain in good position.

The ell is of much later construction than the main house, and probably was not there in Solomon Manning's time. In early days the southeast room was the living room, the northeast one was the kitchen; the lower west rooms were only used on state occasions, and the present south entrance only occasionally.

Within a few years changes in the grade of the sidewalk made it necessary to take away some of the steps and carry back the front entrance into the hall as it now is. Formerly there was a plot of land in front, enclosed by a fence.

Dudley Hall was born in Medford October 14, 1780, and died here November 3, 1868.

Solomon Manning named one of his sons for his employer.

—ELIZA M. GILL.

MEDFORD, April 2, 1902.

COLONIAL HOUSES—OLD AND NEW.

THE following article was written a few years since, at the request of Principal Hobbs, for use in the Brooks School, by Mrs. Alfred Brooks, who resides in the house described. It now appears in the REGISTER with her consent.

"The quaint house at the corner of High and Woburn streets, commonly known as the Jonathan Brooks homestead, is one of the old landmarks of Medford. The writer does not know the date when it was built, but that it belongs to the very early colonial period is shown both by the external and internal architecture. The rooms are very low, and the great beams of the framework project around the sides and across the middle of the ceilings.

"There are two brick ovens, showing the builders intended to be well fed, and all the rooms, except one in the attic, had fireplaces. The largest of these has been bricked up, but the opening of one large one still remains, with hooks and the hinged place for the crane back of a modern stove. These two large fireplaces were evidently used for cooking as well as warming, but the other five are small and shallow, and were intended only for warming, and by some science which seems lost to the modern architect they never smoke, and warm the rooms with just a handful of wood. One of them is surrounded with old Dutch tiles. The alternate ones represent Dutch village scenes in blue and white, while the others have a geometric pattern in blue and brown on a white ground. They are rudely set in soapstone. In one room the fireplace was reset at an early date by a quaint, wrought-iron grate very different from the iron of the present day. The wood-work and timbers are fastened by clumsy hand-made nails and heavy spikes.

"This house has been in the possession of the Brooks family since 1768. This date has been given from hearsay and has not been verified, but is approximately correct. The house had already had several other owners, and so must have been built many years before.

"Jonathan Brooks was the oldest son of Thomas Brooks, who lived on Grove street in a house built by his father Samuel, back of the old brick wall now standing, which was made by Pomp, Thomas' slave. Jonathan, on his marriage with Elizabeth Albree, also a descendant of one of Medford's early settlers, went to live in this house, which has since borne his name. There all his children were born, among them the Rev. Charles Brooks, who was so active in Medford school matters. Here and in the adjoining house his accomplished daughter Elizabeth dispensed the gracious, old-fashioned hospitality, the fame of which still lingers.

"About her own childhood, in this old house, the last of that family, Miss Lucy Ann Brooks, told many charming

stories as she sat smiling in the invalid chair, from which she watched with kindly interest the children of the Brooks School a few years ago as she was pushed along High street for her daily ride.

"The brick part and eastern L of the adjoining house are also very old. That house Jonathan's brother Isaac owned and lived in for a few years but his widow sold it. Years afterwards Jonathan bought it back and his family lived there, renting the house on Woburn street. Both houses are now occupied by descendants of Isaac Brooks, the great-great-grandchildren of Thomas Brooks, the fifth in line from the other Thomas who first purchased land in Medford in 1660."

For eighty years the highway has been appropriately called High street, and at this point is the "height-o'-land" it traverses. The other was once the direct road to Woburn, hence its name.

At the northern end of the house is a long, one-story ell, including a woodshed. The wide doors of the shed, whose tops are the old familiar style of elliptic arch, have long, hand-forged hinges, but have been long disused, as an elm tree has grown directly against them. The wing at the rear of the house, that closely adjoins High street, has also a gambrel roof and is the oldest portion of the house, being the "frame covered with boards" named in the deed of Jonathan Bradshaw.

Features of its construction indicate this, and also that the lean-to that fills the western corner is of much later date than the main house.

Each chimney has a broad band of black painted just below the taper of its top, and each is carried higher with modern bricks and tile because of the swaying tree tops.

Three great sycamores within the fence enclosing the front door-yard stand so closely that they had little room to branch, other than forward. This they did vigorously, one branch being nearly forty feet long, reaching out over the street in pleasant shade and kindly benediction on all that pass beneath.

Mr. Hooper furnishes the following from Middlesex Registry of Deeds: —

Mar. 18, 1768.

"Jonathan Bradshaw Jr. to Jonathan Patten, a small piece of land with a frame covered with boards, bounded west on Deacon Jonathan Bradshaw and measures thirty feet westerly from said building: east on Woburn road: south on the road to Menotomy: north on the heirs of Benjamin Scolly." (Book 67, page 509.)

By the same description Patten conveyed to Thomas Brooks, Jr. (book 84, page 159), and on May 5, 1791, (book 108, page 195): —

"Thomas Brooks Jr. to Jonathan Brooks a lot of land with house and barn, bounded west on Deacon Jonathan Bradshaw, deceased and measuring thirty feet from where Jonathan Bradshaw's frame stood."

By the above we may picture something of the locality in the latest colonial days, and backward for some years. The home of the pious deacon at the height-o'-land (where later was built the more modern house occupied by Rev. Charles Brooks) was probably of the older style with the lean-to. Possibly opposite was his father's (the Ensign John's house), where the church was gathered. Jonathan, Jr., born February 13, 1723, attained his majority in 1744. Doubtless he soon after erected below *his* father's the "little house by the side of the road": the "frame covered with boards" and filled in with bricks for warmth.

Then Jonathan Patten, who married Jonathan Bradshaw, Jr.'s, sister Susannah in 1762, purchased the little gambrel roof "frame covered with boards," and built against it the larger structure, in or near 1768.

Historian Brooks used a wood cut of it as the "tail-piece" on the final page of his history of Medford, together with a fac-simile of his father's signature, piously adding (he was addicted to Latin quotations) —

SICUT PATRIBUS, SIT DEUS NOBIS.

If his artist of 1855 dealt as truly with the trees as

with the house, their recent growth has been small and entirely eastward.

The house is typical of colonial architecture, a favorite with modern architects, and portrayed in publication by one from several points of view.

With its green blinds and uniform straw color, it forms a pleasing picture at the parting of the ways, an old landmark of our ancient town.

Just across the street at the corner of Hastings lane is another old colonial house, probably much older than the Brooks house. Persistent search has failed to reveal the date of its erection, but it is very probable that it was the home of Ensign John Bradshaw, and if so, is the place where the first church of Medford was "gathered" (in 1713), for so they styled the organization of a church two centuries ago.

It originally stood closely parallel with High street and was smaller than at present. Its frame is of oak, and at some time, no one knows when, six feet were added to the western end, with a frame of pine and of a different mode of carpentry. Probably a second chimney was then built, and in that (in the attic) is a closet fitted with iron hooks, on which hams were hung for smoking. In 1871 an extension was built against the first story of this addition, making a large room with a pillar in the center to support the second story wall.

A few years ago the entire house was moved eastward a little, turned to face the street corner, and general repairs made. This resulted in entire new sills and floors, while a new cellar was secured by blasting out the ledge below, and a wide veranda added to the side entrance.

During this work the old house was carefully examined by builders, who came to see its curious construction, and by other interested ones. The attic is plastered throughout, and the old house guards its secrets well, revealing nothing but venerable age when the roof was stripped for re-shingling two years ago.

It is now occupied by Mr. Herman Goedecke, who came to it soon after its refitting, by which it has taken on a new lease of life, though one of the oldest houses in the city, and once known as the Richardson house.

Leading away from this house southward is Hastings lane, and rising from it is Rock-hill, reputed to have been the seat of the last Indian king, Nanepashemit. Crowning this hill is a modern built colonial house, designed by a young Boston architect. In its commanding position it is noticeable from all points. While the red man chose this location that here he might watch for the canoes of his enemies in either direction, the present residents see only the motor boats of their friends.

Neither Nanepashemit nor the Squa-Sachem would recognize in the tranquil Mystic basin of today the tidal river and wooded slopes of their time. Even the river has been moved out of its old course to make room for the parkway at the base of Rock-hill. Here Captain Kidd was said to have buried a part of his ill-gotten treasure; and here that some sanguine ones dug in fruitless search. And here also some one found what was more profitable, some rock, that burnt and ground, was used in painting some Medford houses — a not unavailing quest.

In the construction of this house the great porch columns, built around an oaken timber and turned by the hand process, with many doors and other fittings from an old colonial mansion in Providence, were used in reproducing in this its design.

Other sections of the city have been rapidly built up, but this locality, beautiful for situation, and central when two centuries ago the first meeting house was built close by, is now finding favor with home seekers. There are pleasant and comfortable dwellings being built on new made streets as well as along the old historic road that echoed to Revere's shout and his horse's hoof beats on the morning of the first Patriots' Day.

A WAR ECHO OF 1812.

The following is a literal copy of a manuscript in possession of the Medford Historical Society, written by a native and former resident of Medford: —

New York, June 25, 1812.

The ship *Enterprise* came in on Sunday from Canton. Mr. William Hall of Medford was passenger in her. Just off the mouth of the harbor, she was boarded by a British Frigate, who did not know that War was declared, and let her come in. Soon after, they met the U. S. Frigate *President*, going out after the Englishman, and William Hall (son of Col. Fitch Hall) immediately left the *Enterprise*, went on board the *President*, and offered his services to Commodore Rodgers, and he is now on board this Frigate who is in pursuit of the *Belvidere*, and we are hourly expecting her to be brought in. After so long a voyage as Mr. Hall has just been, the readiness with which he again entered the service, does credit to his patriotism, and reflects great honor upon himself.

C. S.

According to the genealogies in History of Medford, William Hall, born March 21, 1790, died about 1820, unmarried, was a cousin of Dudley Hall, referred to by Mr. Manning and also by Miss Gill in a preceding article of this issue.

MEDFORD REMINISCENCES.

My mother (who was formerly Harriett Todd of Medford, and who was born and brought up there) lived on High street opposite the old Meeting House (Unitarian) until she married Jeremiah Jordan. She had many a time told us of Lafayette's visit to Medford; that he was entertained at the Governor Brooks House (later occupied by Samuel Blanchard in my day); that the Medford Company, of which my grandfather, Henry Todd, was Captain, assisted in receiving the visitors, and that the school children, including herself, were lined up in front of the house and each shook hands with Lafayette. It was a memorable occasion to them.

Mother and father attended school in the old brick schoolhouse back of the Unitarian Church. Mother's teacher was Jane Symmes and father's was Luther Anger. Although father was lame and walked with a crutch, it was said he could run and jump better than the other boys. He was a natural born musician and could play on any instrument. He led many of the choirs at the different churches. Mother and Mrs. Peak of bell ringing fame sang in the choir. In later years I sang whereever father conducted. Dr. Gregg, who used to live in the old brick building at junction of Salem and Ship streets, was committee on music and selected the hymns for church service at Rev. Mr. Marvin's (Orthodox) church.

Jeremiah Jordan organized the first Medford Band and was instrumental in bringing Burdett of the Boston Brigade Band out to Medford to teach band music. My brother, Henry Lincoln Jordan, was the leader. Jordan & Potter's Quadrille Band furnished music for many of Medford's dancing parties. I had always been steeped in music (as you might say), and it was one of my greatest delights when father would allow me to go with him. I hope I may be a dancer in the next world. His next band was called Baldwin & Jordan's Cornet Band and afterward (father having given up playing) it merged under Mr. Thomas Baldwin's leadership into the now famous Germania Band of Boston.

Father was instrumental in having a singing school in Town Hall. He and Theophilus Johnson sailed up and down the river many a calm evening serenading with their cornets.

I remember the old ship-building days and the old chain bridge which frightened me so when it was hoisted to let a vessel pass; the old canal along the banks of which I have many a time "tagged" the horse which drew the boat; the construction of the road from South street to High, and the row of tulips along the path at the Tidd

[Royall] place. Children used to call it the "old marm Tidd place" and were much in fear of the occupants, or they would have been minus a few tulips at least.

The old meeting-house bell was of much pleasure to me as its sweet tones fell on my ear, especially on a Sabbath morn when it called the worshipers together and Dr. Towne came over the new road to meet grandma Todd and conduct her to church, and I have always been sorry the church was not built on the old lines after it was burned.

Benjamin Floyd, who is buried in the old burying ground on Salem street, was my great grandfather, and was among the first to respond to the call to arms at the Battle of Lexington and Concord and the first to respond to the second call.

My grandfather, Jeremiah Jordan, married Benjamin Floyd's daughter, Patty Floyd. Grandfather Jordan sailed from Portsmouth on a privateering expedition and was thrice captured by the British and incarcerated in Dartmoor Prison. Finally the vessel was captured by pirates and the captain and first mate (grandfather) were spiked to the deck and the vessel set on fire. The second mate hid in a molasses barrel and was the only one saved. At that time the family of J. J. lived in Portsmouth and soon after went to Medford, when my father (Jeremiah Jordan 3d) was about ten years of age.

My two brothers, George Webster and Henry Lincoln, enlisted for the civil war. G. W. in the navy, ship *Ino*, and H. L. at Charlestown as the Medford Company refused him on account of his age, so he ran away and enlisted in Charlestown. G. W. lives in Hermosillo, Mexico, and H. L. at Santa Barbara, California. Brother Charlie was drummer for the Medford Company, but did not enlist as he was too young.

In the Medford history it says that Thomas Sabels, or Savels, married Miriam Royall — that was my great grandmother's brother's name.

As the first Benjamin Floyd recorded is as far back as I have any knowledge of, the residence of the Floyd family in Medford must have covered a long period.

Inside the covers (torn from an old ledger probably), and in his own handwriting, is the memoranda below. Thinking it may be of a little interest to your Society (he being a minute man as I have explained), I send it to you. Benjamin Floyd, 2d, was the writer and is the one buried in the old Salem street burying ground at the left front corner.

"My father Benj. Floyd (1st), husband of Ruth Floyd, died at sea Jan., 1762.

"My mother Ruth Floyd died Feb., 1813. Medford April 1729, Ruth Floyd was born.

"Benj. Floyd Jr. or 2nd was born Jan. 5, 1755.

"Martha Savels wife of Benj. Floyd was born Sept. 1756.

CHILDREN:

"Benj. Floyd 3rd	Born 1780, lost at sea.
"Patty ,, or Martha F.	,, 1782, died 1861.
"Sally ,, F.	,, 1785, ,,
"Sukey ,, F.	,, 1787, ,, 1795.
"Rebecca Thompson F.	,, 1790.
"George Hinchman F.	,, 1792, died 1794.
"Abel Butterfield F.	,, 1793, ,, 1797.
"Thomas Floyd	,, 1795.
"Abel Butterfield 2nd	,, 1798."

[No race suicide here.]

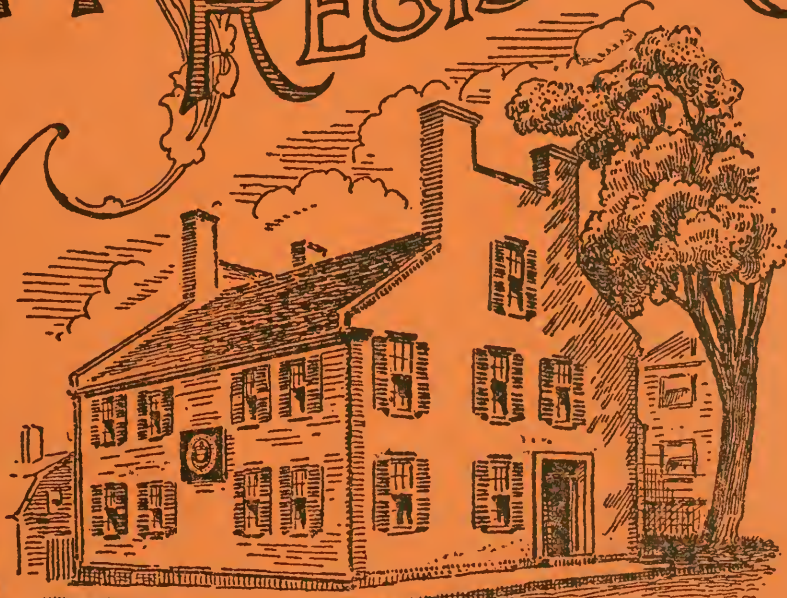
On the back cover is written

"Benjamin Floyd
His Book & Property
1819
1756."

—HARRIETT A. JORDAN ROWE.

. XV.] [No. 4.

HISTORICAL REGISTER



OCTOBER, 1912

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FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of_____Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.

From a water color by F. H. C. Woolley.

BUILDING OF SHIP "PILGRIM" AT FOSTER'S YARD

The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. XV. OCTOBER, 1912. No. 4.

THE OLD SHIP-BUILDING DAYS.

[Excerpts from a talk given before the Medford Historical Society by Elisha B. Curtis, December 18, 1911, on "Scenes Along the Mystic in the Early Fifties."]

IN 1850 the population of Medford exceeded that of Malden. Malden then included both Melrose and Everett, known as North and South Malden, respectively. Medford's population was then also larger than Somerville's, which now outnumbers us three or four to one. At that time Medford was in her palmiest days, having a great prestige through her ship-building industry following the discovery of gold, in 1849, on the Pacific coast. A few years later, however, it became evident that wooden vessels were passing, and this fact, together with other circumstances (such as the withholding of lands from the market, and our location on a spur track instead of a main line) will account for being outstripped in growth by these neighboring communities.

There were three ship-yards on the south side of the river and three on the north side, extending from the since established Winthrop bridge at intervals to Foster's court, off Ship street, now Riverside avenue. In each of these yards there could be seen one, two, or three vessels in various stages of construction. All this heavy work required nearly five hundred strong and robust workmen. Besides some natives, these men came from the South Shore towns of Scituate, Hanover, Pembroke, Marshfield and Duxbury. There were also some from the coast of Maine and the Provinces.

All along the river there was a great and constant hum of business. The streets were filled with long tandem teams of horses, hauling timber which had come down over the railroad from the northern hills to a side-track at West Medford.

The *noises* of the ship-yards were many. The swinging of broadaxes, the resounding mauls that were sending home spikes, bolts and trunnels, the ring of the anvils and caulking irons, the various calls for help from one locality to another, such as "hot plank here," all had a certain charm, even if they were not harmonious.

Then the *smells* of a ship-yard were also of interest to acute nostrils. The white oak that had been absorbing from nature for many decades, in being worked into shape for use, gave forth its own peculiar aroma, as did also the yellow pine from Georgia, the hackmatack and other woods. Then the bales of oakum, the great melting kettles of pitch, tar and tallow, and the atmosphere around the saw-pits, the steam box and sizzling forges, all made up a variety of strong and positive odors.

In the yard at foot of Cross street Mr. Samuel Lapham (who lived in the large house by the Cross street railroad bridge) built several first-class merchantmen for Mr. John E. Lodge, father of Senator Cabot Lodge. The *Argonaut* was a '49er, and such was the demand for freight and passenger accommodation that she was paid for before ever casting off her lines for her maiden voyage around "The Horn" to San Francisco. Curiosity as to the name of this ship is satisfied by history, which says that the Argonauts were famous Greek heroes, who according to tradition lived before the Trojan War and made adventurous voyages in the ship *Argo* into unknown seas to recover "The Golden Fleece."

The launching days were the culmination of interest. School sessions were frequently varied to meet the general desire to be present. Being known all through the town, a large company assembled in delightful anticipation. It was, however, a time of anxiety for the builders and owners, as well as for such of the workmen as were splitting away blocks of wood from under the keel, to allow the ship to settle slightly and take a bearing on the tallowed track. No escape for these; they were imprisoned and simply had to wait while the immense body

slid over them and down the ways into water. Strong nerves were necessary there.

In the Thatcher Magoun yard (at foot of Park street) a vessel had been built by Hayden & Cudworth, and was given an unusual pitch toward the river. This was to insure that once started she should keep moving. This method was open to the objection of moving so swiftly as to wedge into the opposite bank hard and fast. To prevent this a heavy anchor was embedded in the solid ground alongside. To it, from on shipboard, there was run a very large new Manila hawser with a good deal of slack, the idea being to check her great momentum when once afloat. Thereby hangs a sad tale.

In the old burying-ground on Cross street, over on the northerly line, there is a slate headstone with this inscription: "Walter S. Hathaway, son of Noah and Hannah Hathaway. Sept. 30, 1850. 14 yrs. 6 mos." The family home was on the corner of Salem and Cross streets, and there these parents reared a family of eighteen children. The head of the family was a pillar in the Methodist Church. The oldest son was a powerful man and much liked in a ship-yard gang on this account. Later in life he became attached to Boston police force and was known as "Big George."

Walter, a younger brother, was like him in muscle. In those days, if you bought goods at a grocery you had to get them home yourself, they were not sent. Henry H. Jaquith kept a store (now a dwelling-house) adjoining the Cross street cemetery. Some one had bought a barrel of flour and a two-bushel bag of corn, and engaged Walter to wheel them home. Boys gathered around, curious to know how much for the job, and eager to try a hand at it. After proving their inability, a proud moment came to Walter, when he took two boys on top the load and went right along with it. There came a day, however, when all his superior strength counted for nothing. It was at the launching above referred to. Amid the cheering of the great company as the ship

entered the water a tragedy was being enacted. Just as the hawser tautened by the tremendous strain, Walter was jumping over it. It parted, and caught him in its recoil. He was drawn into the river out of sight. When after an hour or two his body was recovered it was found that one of his legs had been broken.

There was built in this same yard, in 1854, a beautiful barque. She pursued for a number of years a peaceful commerce around the world until overtaken by Captain Semmes in the *Alabama*, becoming one of his sixty-five victims.

THE MYSTIC MANSION.

SOMEONE once made the remark that Medford was noted for its rum, ships and old houses,—and with good reasons. The ship-building industry of the old days is gone, though there has recently come the building of the modern motor boats; the other famous product (no longer made) is becoming rare, the real article commanding a high price; but the old houses are well holding their own.

The subject of this sketch is not one of the oldest, but attains the century mark this present year, and is now generally known as the Mansion House. Now in private ownership, it was at the time of its erection a public building, the Medford almshouse. The Puritan settlers of Massachusetts had little need for almshouses, for idleness was whipped out of the men by the magistrates and out of the boys by their parents; at least so says the historian. It was not till a hundred and sixty years after the town's settlement that an almshouse was provided, and then by the purchase of a house and three acres and a half of land, barely enough for a vegetable garden, as was said; and this house served for twenty years, till it became unsuitable. At the "March meeting," in 1811, steps were taken to build a new one. The committee chosen to attend to this duty was a notable one. The chairman,

Timothy Bigelow, was for many years Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. The others were Dr. John Brooks (afterward and for seven years governor); Abner Bartlett, Medford's noted lawyer; Jonathan Brooks and Isaac Brooks, the latter an efficient Overseer of the Poor. This committee reported their plan, which was to build a three-story brick building "on the lane leading from the great road from Malden, to Turner's ship-yard." This lane is now known as Cross street, and the acre and a half of land is the cemetery. The house was to be 36 x 44 feet in size, and with the land was to cost $4,000.00. The committee also reported that the old house, with its three and a half acres of land, could be sold for one eighth of that amount.

Opposition to this plan soon found expression in the remonstrance of twenty-one prominent citizens, and a committee was chosen to wait upon the former named committee and request them to desist from their work.

The result of this action was that on March 9, 1812, the committee reported that such house of brick could be built in either place for $3,354.00; that one of the same area, of *two* stories of brick, but without shed, for $2,600.00; or if of wood, for $2,300.00. It was thereupon voted to build on the old location a two-story house of brick, and the committee proceeded with its work. After the lapse of a hundred years the substantial brick walls stand to-day in testimony to the committee's good judgment, as well as to the skill of the workmen who built them.

Whether the committee employed an architect to draw plans does not appear, and the exterior appearance of the house when completed is a matter of some doubt. From conversation with the oldest residents in its vicinity, the writer has been led to think that the roof and end walls were like those of the Seccomb house and the Historical Society's building, and with that idea in mind it was so represented in the background of the picture, prepared in 1905, of the first West End schoolhouse. (See REGISTER, Vol. VIII, p. 77.)

The house was then practically three stories in height (as the basement floor was but slightly below grade), and had a pitched or possibly a gambrel roof, making a roomy attic therein. Built into the end walls were four chimneys and numerous fireplaces for warmth, as this was before the advent of hot-air furnaces or steam-heating apparatus. The windows were wide and well up from the floors, and the glass was in numerous small panes. A stone set in the eastern wall, above the entrance door, bears the date 1812.

Medford's streets (roads they were then called) were few, and had not the specific names they now bear until 1829. Then the selectmen took action and named the various public ways that radiated "from the town pump" or "from the hotel." That *high* "way to Menotomy" they called High street, and the almshouse was "somewhat back from the village street" that was appropriately named High as its course lay over "Marm Simond's hill." This road was the one taken by Paul Revere after he awakened Capt. Isaac Hall of the Medford Minute Men on April 19, 1775.

From the earliest times there had been near the river a dwelling, with a brick yard between it and the bend opposite the mouth of Menotomy river. A lane had led thereto, and on the opening of the Middlesex canal, nine years before the building of the almshouse, the canal-lock, tavern, and "landing number four" made this lane something of a thoroughfare. Its proximity, and the more remote course of High street, probably caused the fronting of the house toward the lane, which became very aptly called Canal street, and it still bears the name.

Soon after the completion of the house, eight acres of land adjoining were purchased for as many hundred dollars. The historian remarks, "This was planted and it had the magical effect of thinning out the male occupants."

During the construction of this new house the town's poor were returned from Woburn, where they had been quartered, and doubtless fared better by the change.

Benjamin Young was the first keeper of the new almshouse, probably beginning his duties late in the autumn of 1812, and was allowed for his services (and wife's, also) $250.00 per year. It was stipulated that he "was to maintain himself and family, and to have house rent and the use of the kitchen fire."

In 1813 thirty-three persons were supported wholly by the town, and thirteen assisted. The Overseers of the Poor were chosen from the most worthy and prominent citizens, and doubtless administered affairs as well as means and customs of the time permitted; still, the almshouse "was a nightmare in those days to many a poor soul battling with poverty."

The town had the usual barn and out-buildings near by, including the "crazy pen," where a few unfortunates bereft of reason were kept. Happily such are cared for in these days in a different manner, and not exposed to the view of idle passers, or the teasing of ill-mannered youths who need the parental discipline of birch or shingle; but such were the conditions of those days. Of this latter, mention is made advisedly, for in 1831 the schoolhouse, built elsewhere two years before, was moved into the corner of the almshouse lot, as a more convenient site, and fronted on the canal lane. In 1835 the Lowell railroad was opened for travel, having been constructed through the town's land and within two rods of the house.

In 1851 the great tornado which wrought such havoc in West Cambridge (now Arlington) and Medford totally wrecked this schoolhouse, but did little damage to the almshouse. Fortunately there were no children hurt in the schoolhouse wreck, as it was vacation time, but the school was to have opened two days later. It is said, however, that the great September gale of 1815 blew down the chimneys and broke the almshouse windows badly.

In 1853, Medford having built a new (the present) almshouse, this house, with its land, was sold for $3,690.10.

Thomas P. Smith was the purchaser, and he had also acquired all the territory in Medford lying westward therefrom between High street and Mystic river. Traversing this had been the Middlesex canal, but this had been discontinued in the preceding year.

Mr. Smith was a man of much public spirit and enterprise, and had planned here a suburban village to be called "Brooklands," with numerous streets and two parks, Gorham and Lakeview, therein. His residence and great barn was on High street, just westward from the parochial residence of the present St. Raphael's Church. He had erected several first-class houses, and in 1852 the substantial building of classic design (that has ever since had a prominent place in the public thought—educational, religious, social, fraternal, political—as well as of business use), the Mystic Hall building. All this has been in accordance with his design, as time has proved, though he lived to see but little of it, as he died on April 27, 1854.

A radical change in the old almshouse and its reconstruction went on in that year, till, as Medford's historian records, its "strong walls only are yet standing to support a new, expensive and commodious country seat." Its old shingled roof, with its battlement walls, was replaced with one of pyramidal form covered with red slate of the most expensive kind, and crowned by an octagonal cupola. Since the first preparation of this article the writer has made a careful examination of the building, and especially of the framing of the roof, so far as it can be seen, and is now of the opinion that the roof timbers and boards may be the original ones. It is more than likely that in 1854 a wider cornice was placed upon the eaves, with ornamental brackets and copper gutters, and the entire roof then slated.

The new staircases were furnished with a continuous rail of mahogany from basement to attic, while the interior was most substantially finished and supplied with all the conveniences of that time.

As an almshouse there had been nothing of ornament within or without, but for its new use no expense was spared. The window openings were lengthened downward, as may be seen by an examination of its walls. Great four-paned windows replaced the old sashes, and were probably among the first of their kind in Medford. A wide corridor extended through the house, and over its western door was a canopy supported by iron brackets of elaborate make and design. That it was an almshouse no longer was evident to all observers from the railway cars, as "Mystic Mansion" appeared in the glass in great gilt letters. A vestibule at the front door, with a basement entrance beneath, gave character to the eastern front, while the broad and bracketed eave-cornice showed marked contrast to the old appearance. To serve the new use, a wing some forty feet long was built southward, with baths and sleeping apartments on the second floor, and the first in one large room.

Mention has been made of Mr. Smith's residence and of Mystic Hall. When the reconstruction of the almshouse was complete, Mrs. Smith, on February 5, 1855, opened in these three buildings her boarding school for young ladies, the somewhat famous "Mystic Hall Seminary." An examination of its prospectus and year books reveals the names of men well known in the literary and professional world as its board of visitors, together with clergymen, jurists and merchants, as references. No inconsiderable number of the young misses were daughters or wards of Southern people, and several Southern papers printed flattering notices of the school that read strangely today.

Mrs. Smith's plan of study embraced four departments: "Physical, Moral, Mental and Graceful." To become expert in the physical, the pupils availed themselves of the salt tides of the Mystic, three bath-houses built on its banks being a part of the seminary equipment. The disused canal provided a safe skating park, and there was a gymnasium and bowling alley in the great barn

near the Smith residence. There also were kept the horses for their equestrian feats, as also the seminary "omnibus." In the graceful department the noted Louis Papanti of Boston taught dancing. All the modern languages were taught, some of the instructors coming from Harvard, and the "French language only, used at table." Mrs. Smith herself taught in general literature and science, working out her elaborate plan. After four years of apparently successful operation she deemed it advisable to remove the school to the national capital, expecting a greater Southern patronage. This she did, reopening there in the autumn of 1859. Her expectations were not realized; the John Brown raid at Harper's Ferry proved disastrous to her hopes and plans.

During the following year the seminary was in operation and was visited by the Prince of Wales and suite, this being the year of their American tour. *Leslie's Weekly* of that date gives an account thereof, and has an illustration showing the prince (later King Edward) exercising in the gymnasium of the seminary. The outbreak of the Civil War blasted all hope, and the school closed.

For a time thereafter, with her father, Ebenezer Smith, Mrs. Smith resided in the Mystic Mansion. The town of Medford still held a mortgage on the property and had taken possession thereof. The elder Mr. Smith died in August, 1864, and in 1866 the claim of the town was satisfied by the payment of nearly $3,500.00, and the property came into the hands of trustees under the Smith will.

Early in 1870 the entire estate came into new ownership, and after lying dormant for seventeen years the enterprise of building a village, begun by the younger Mr. Smith, was commenced anew.

During later years the Mansion House had been neglected. It was in 1871 repaired and three quarters of the dormitory extension removed, the latter made into a comfortable dwelling. The owners, however, found

the proximity of the railroad detrimental to its occupancy as a high-class residence by any one able to maintain its style, but planned to make it a "genteel boarding-house," as they termed it.

After a few years it fell by foreclosure of mortgage into the possession of a Boston bank, and later into ownership of Olin O. Foster, who for several years resided there. During his occupancy there was a plan formulated by a Mr. Dana Bickford (himself an inventor) of obtaining it for a home for aged and indigent inventors, and he secured an option on the same in 1902. He was unable, however, to interest great capitalists, as he hoped, and the project failed. A few years since, Mr. Foster sold the property and removed from the city. It was then repaired to some extent and has since been used as a boarding-house.

The old mansion, erstwhile the almshouse, has been a silent witness to the march of a century's progress. When its substantial walls were erected our country was engaged in war with England, over which the third George was then reigning sovereign. Communication was so slow in those days that the battle of New Orleans was fought *after* the treaty of peace had been made. Only five years had passed since Fulton's steamboat, but no such one had dared the stormy Atlantic. The stage-coach was then the only public conveyance overland. Since 1803 it had been possible to journey from Boston to Chelmsford by water through the Middlesex canal, but the travellers were few. Lowell was yet to be. The dwellers in the almshouse doubtless looked with wonder on the novel sight of Captain Sullivan's steamboat *Merrimack* as it passed through the canal, but a few rods away, in 1818 and '19, its noisy engine and the smoke of its wood and tar fire very noticeable. Then again, seventeen years later, there came the snort and neigh of the iron horse at their very door, that must have created great excitement, and been looked upon with amazement by the older people.

Two trees stood by the entrance gates in those old days, an elm and a willow. The latter succumbed to the ravages of the gypsy moth; the elm is now fourteen feet in circumference. A half dozen others have grown in later years (one over two feet in diameter) where the schoolhouse stood, and since its destruction by the tornado. The site occupied by the various "appendages," as the building committee called the out-buildings, is covered with dwellings, stable, and granite works, but the old mansion stands, shaded by the trees, substantial and useful after a century's busy use. Probably its palmiest days were in the four years when the Mystic Hall Seminary was in its prime, and which but for its untimely removal might have longer continued to educate young misses of Medford and from other places, in matters physical, moral, mental and graceful. As it is, there are yet some living who recall with pleasure their youthful days spent in its classic halls, and occasionally come to look again on the old Mystic Hall and Mystic Mansion.

—M. W. M.

A FISHY STORY.

Rev. Hosea Ballou, 2d, who resigned his pastorate of the Medford Universalist Church to become the first president of Tufts College, was accustomed to write to his ministerial brethren and members of the Faculty in a somewhat humorous vein. Sometimes these missives would be in several different languages, though it is said none such ever got in print.

Sometimes the learned doctor would drop into poetry, and one of his productions comes down to us from one who says, "I am indebted to Professor Tweed for one he received on a winter morning, when the snow had blocked the roads round Walnut hill,* and the New England staple, salt fish, was in request — a dinner of which, by the way, John Hancock used to invite his friends to

* The hill was known as Walnut Tree Hill prior to the location of the college thereon.

eat on Saturdays." Under stress of weather the good doctor penned the lines his wife styled "silly." There seemed to have been the "irony of fate" that President Ballou should have, after such criticism, sent them to the door of the professor of English literature, adding (to his wife), "That's the reason I send them."

Medford people of today who purchase cured fish, cut, boneless, and in dainty package, may not appreciate like their elders, the grim humor of the verses. The grocery store then sold the whole "salt fish," which was usually hung up by the tail in shed or cellar, to be cut from as occasion required, or surreptitiously stripped from by hungry boys, and never tasting quite as good as when thus eaten.

Staple food on Walnut Hill!
Victual-fund for drafts at will!
Ready in all exigents,
Minute-man of esculents!
Substitute for every dish, —
Hail, all hail to thee, Salt Fish!

When the rain comes pouring down,
And no market-carts from town;
Nought abroad but roaring gale,
Streaming hills, and flooded vale, —
"What for dinner do you wish?"
Asks the wife. The same, — Salt Fish.

When the winter's smothering blow
Drifts the roads fence-high with snow,
Shrouding Nature all in white,
As for her funereal rite, —
If a dinner-thought intrude
On our awful solitude,
Can we feel blue devilish?
Blest resource! there's some Salt Fish.

Rain nor snow nor cold nor heat
May disturb our high retreat:
All within is cheery still
In our homes on Walnut Hill.
Does a friend or guest drop in
Just about the hour to dine?

Though the larder's void, what matters?
Out with cups and knives and platters;
Help him, till no more he wish,
From thy bounty, O Salt Fish!

Thou of eatables the chief, —
Whether called Atlantic beef,
Mutton caught at Newfoundland,
Poultry from the ocean-strand,
Venison from the *shoaly banks*, —
Still for thee we render thanks,
O thou *universal* dish!
Hail, all hail, to thee, Salt Fish!

Blessings on thy face antique,
Mummy ichthyologic,
Drawn from caves beneath the tides
Older than the Pyramids!
What a wondrous power thou hast,
That can make us feast and fast,
Blending lean and hungry Lent
With Carnival incontinent,
Making all days Fridayish,
Thaumaturgical Salt Fish.

One appellation Dr. Ballou failed to name — the time-honored "Cape Cod Turkey."

Of the verses, a critic said (per contra to Mrs. B.), "Had they been written by Leigh Hunt, for humor, versification and fancy, they would have been considered as one of his best effusions." A contributor says: "Fifty years ago it was no uncommon sight to see a young man going through Medford square with a salt fish in one hand and a can of oil in the other. We did not necessarily put him down as one who tilled the soil, or thought him a laboring man, for we knew he dug in Greek roots and was taking his way toward College hill."

O tempora! O mores! Fancy such a sight today! Boneless cod and electric light are the present order, but salt fish was a New England staple then.

OLD MEDFORD SCHOOLBOYS' LETTERS.

AMONG the residents of Medford who lived to a good old age was Elijah B. Smith. In his boyhood he had a "chum," who in 1894 resided in Dorchester, and replied under date of February 9 to a letter from his old friend "Lige." In it he said: "It is recorded in the good book that J. K. F. was born April 30, 1817. I suppose it is true, but I cannot realize it as I feel as young as I did fifty years ago. . . .

"There were two old characters that come into my mind. One was old Bucknam, who kept a small grocery just beyond the Train estate. He refused to sell ten pounds of sugar at a time as he was not a *wholesaler*. The other was Aunt Polly, who sold pins, needles, tapes and molasses candy; also cigars, the real *long nines*, one of which I smoked on an election day. The result was, a sicker boy never existed; this was my *first* and *last* attempt to become a smoker. . . .

"Allusion to the Mystic recalls the narrow escape I had of being overwhelmed in its waters. I was rescued from drowning by Mr. Darius Wait just as I was sinking for the last time; the sensation remains vivid in my mind."

Mr. Fuller expressed a hope to be at the dedication of the "new meeting-house" (the present Unitarian Church), and to meet his old friend there. If the old friends met on that occasion it was probably their last meeting, and what an exchange of old-time reminiscences they must have had!

We reproduce Mr. Smith's letter in the REGISTER, with the remark that a *portion* of it may also be found in an "*Historical Souvenir*" of Medford, issued in 1903 by the Sarah Bradlee Fulton Chapter, D. A. R.

DEAR OLD BOY: Why not? We were young boys together, and fairly good boys in my way of thinking — at any rate you were one, and one that I always considered a favorite. Boys, you know, have their particular chums and John Kuhn was one of mine when a little chap of four feet in altitude. But enough of this. My

friends the W——s have told me of the pleasant visit they had from you. They also told me of your inquiries for your old schoolmate Lige. Thank you.

It carried me back to the merry old times
When we like all school boys were cutting up shines.
Of course they were mingled with mischief and folly,
But gave the amusement that boys reckoned jolly.

The schoolhouse of brick and the neighboring pump,
The playground, shut in by the old church in front,
Where base balls and foot balls and snow balls would fly,
And *bawls* from the chap that was hit in the eye.

There too were the horse sheds so constantly used,
Where clothing was damaged and bodies were bruised,
No modern gymnasium with every facility
Could startle the world with such feats of agility.

And then, when the hours of instruction were closed,
How grimly the East and the West * stood opposed.
Fag-enders and *Maggots*, ah! how they waged fight
And muzzled each other with such cool delight.

Their whole ammunition consisted of snow,
And that flew as fast as a tempest could blow;
And woe to the *lummox* who blundered and fell,
Stuffed full of a snowdrift, unable to yell.

Fag-enders were those that most frequently run;
The Maggots, confound them, were three to our one;
We had but two heroes on whom to rely,
Bill Roach and Seth Vining would never say die.

Against any trick the Maggots would use
Those two stood as firm as a rock, in their shoes.
When those two Napoleons were ranged on our side,
A million of Maggots we would have defied.

Sometimes they stood plastered from head to toe,
Appearing like statues fresh cut from the snow.
The chief of Clan Maggot I may have forgot,
Indeed I don't know if they had one or not.

The clan had a fashion, a cowardly one,
To shelter themselves with a fence, tree or stone.
Bill B—— is one that comes into my mind
Who never was hit anywhere but behind.

* The "West End," as that portion of the town lying west of the meeting-house used to be called, was styled by the other portion as the "Fag End."

Once only, a teacher would try arbitration,
But found (the old fool) he had missed his vocation.
He rushed through the crowd with herculean whip,
Supposing the ox-goad would make the boys skip,

But as soon as his clerical figure appeared,
A truce 'twixt the East and the West was declared.
They turned all their batteries, shrapnel and grape,
And knocked the old dominie all out of shape.

His hat was smashed in and his hair was all powdered,
His face and his eyes looked like clams nearly chowdered.
The best part of valor he found was discretion,
And streaked like a dog in a battered condition.

Then coasting! Who does not remember Clay's hill,
With a length and a speed just sufficient to kill?
And then from the summit down hill just beyond,
There lay the small puddle, then called "Betty's Pond,"

Where those who owned skates (I was not then so rich),
Could skim o'er the ice and break into the ditch.
But schoolhouse and teachers have all passed away
And few of the school-boys are living today.

They have climbed their last climb they have had their last run,
Old lessons are finished and new ones begun;
Have done all their skating have had their last coast,
Of victories with snow balls no longer they boast.

A few yet remain in the place of their birth,
A few more are scattered about on the earth;
To the north and the south the east and the west,
Wherever Dame Fortune would treat them the best.

She seems to have taken a fancy to you
And given a prominent seat in her pew.
And while she has honors and dimes to confer,
Hang on to her apron strings, stick like a bur.

Old Medford of course you will never forget,
She reared and she schooled and she cares for you yet.
Wherever we wander, wherever we roam
We cherish and love her, "There's no place like home."

Where'er we may be there is always a joy
In turning us back where we lived as a boy.
She has her attractions, and those from afar
Soon find them, and praise them, and know where they are.

The beautiful drives through her forests and lanes,
The walks in the by-ways and over the plains,
The hills that we climbed in the seasons of yore
Still lift up their summits as high as before.

"Pine hill" was the monarch from earliest time,
But now it is rare to walk under a pine.
The view from its summit is lovely and grand,
On cities and villages, ocean and land.

And then the hill "Walnut," now crowned with a college
That sends through the world Universalist knowledge.
And also the reservoir filled from the pond
To water the people in cities beyond.

Rock hill with the river still laving its side,
Where often I plunged in the deepening tide
To swim like a duck or sink like a stone,
And wish in my terror that I was at home.

The hills and the valleys are always the same,
The highlands and lowlands unchanged still remain;
The marshes spread out like a lawn to the sea
As level and smooth as a prairie can be.

The river still wriggles along through the mud
In tortuous windings, till reaching the Hub.
The tides still flow up as they did to the pond,
But dams have prevented them passing beyond.

She once was renowned for her crackers and bricks,
Was famed through the world for her beautiful ships;
Where man ever lived in the light of the sun
She is known, she is loved for her *Old Medford Rum*.

Where man ever sojourned, in pleasure or trouble,
The rum of Old Medford would cheer him or — fuddle.
Dear comrade and schoolmate and friend please to pardon
For punishing you with this long string of jargon.

It's one of my failings — a serious one —
And yet I enjoy the detestable fun.
And when you shall visit our old town again
I surely will meet you, if not dead or lame.

With a multitude of good wishes from your old schoolmate and friend,

E. B. Smith.

Mr. Fuller began his reply with the words "Dear *young* friend," and named several of his schoolmates who struggled to master the three Rs, "Reading, 'Riting and 'Rithmetic." Certainly both succeeded in the second, for their penmanship is clear, legible and a credit to both their teachers and themselves. Well would it be if the same could be said of all the scholars of the present Medford.

One more quotation from Mr. F.: "The mere mention of "Old Medford" makes me smack my lips, for I think a little (only a very little) mixed with a glass of milk and loaf sugar has given zest many a time 'when wearied nature sought repose.'"

Dr. Everett, the poet of Medford's two hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary said,

> "And e're the poet close
> Shall not one drop of fun be granted him
> E'en tho the cynic nose turn up in censure grim?
> What means 'Old Medford' to her exiled sons?"

In both *these* letters it appears that

> "Her spirit still is there."

COMMUNICATED.

Miss Lucy Osgood was a dignified looking woman of striking appearance, but with features cast in a somewhat masculine mould. She knew her lack of beauty, as this story she told attests, "I was walking through the rooms of one of the large department stores then recently opened when I saw coming towards me the homeliest woman I ever saw. When she got nearer to me I saw it was Miss Lucy Osgood." She was in front of one of the large mirrors that had been added as an extra embellishment to the room.

IN THE OLD DAYS.

Since athletics claim so large a share of attention in the education of the school-boy and of the college man of today, the following may have some interest for our readers. It is from a notice on the death of Dr. Weld of Portland, Me., which occurred November 24, 1857, published in the *Portland Advertiser*. Samuel Weld taught our Medford school February, 1806, to August, 1807.

"It was one of the College customs of that day for the Freshmen, on the entry of every class, to be initiated into their new life by a wrestling match. The Sophomores challenged the new-comers to a trial of strength in this ancient and classical exercise.

"The Senior class was the umpire, and the victors were treated to a supper on their invitation. In the contest of 1796, after a hard and manly struggle, the Freshmen came off victorious, leaving three of their champions ready to continue the contest; of these, Weld was one. The Monday after, the Juniors, not easy under this defeat, challenged the Freshmen to a new contest with them. This was accepted, and Weld was the first to enter the list; he threw successively *six* of the Juniors, the first of whom was the late Judge Fay of Cambridge. Reeking with perspiration, and nearly exhausted, he was required to renew the struggle with a fresh competitor; in this he was unfortunately overcome" . . . Dr. Weld studied medicine with Dr. (Gov.) John Brooks. (See REGISTER, Vol. XIV, p. 97, for account of another Medford school-master.)

ANOTHER ABSENTEE.

In addition to the Loyalists of Medford, already noticed in earlier issues of the REGISTER, another had his residence here, but after the Revolution was over and peace declared.

Francis Green, a graduate of Harvard, 1760, a merchant of Boston, married a lady whose father was mayor

of New York previous to the Revolution. He came back to Boston from Halifax, and to Medford about 1798, and two years later occupied the house later belonging to Mr. Samuel Swan (Watson House). He died 21 April, 1809, aged 67. His widow moved to Charlestown, N. H., in 1822, when the Gilchrist family moved there.

[Adapted from C. S.]—E. M. G.

COMMUNICATED.

"Where in America is to be found that spirit of sport and bluff hearty enjoyment that is seen in English country gentlemen and others? Business here absorbs every thing, and renders people incapable of every other *pleasure*. Officers of the army and navy are sometimes an exception. There is an old retired navy surgeon at Medford, who lives with his dogs and his gun, like an English squire, enjoying himself in the same hearty manner." Query — Who was he?

The above was written in 1845 by Francis Parkman, referring to the effects of environment.

A FIRST CITIZEN NAMED FIRST-RATE TOWN.

WE are in receipt of a clipping from a Cleveland paper with the query, "Was he a Medford Brooks?" The town referred to therein celebrated its centennial on July 25, 26, 27, 1912. Replying to the query affirmatively, and curious to know how such occasion was there observed, a letter was addressed to the mayor of Chardon, who replied and also sent the local paper's account of the celebration. This will find place in the Historical Society's archives.

Chardon is the county seat of Geauga County, Ohio, twenty-eight miles east from Cleveland, and six hundred feet above Lake Erie — quite an elevation for that section. A portion of the clipping reads thus: —

"The hill was owned by Peter Chardon Brooks, a first citizen of Massachusetts.

"It was quite the fashion those days for a gent to found a town and thus put his name on the map. But Brooks, while he craved the perpetual publicity thus to be attained, really was too much of a gent to drive an ox cart to Geauga-co. to do the founding act himself. So he agreed to donate a village plat if the county seat would be called after him.

"'What's in a name?' argued the prominent pioneers, accepting.

"They were a little bit dismayed, though, when Brooks announced that it was by his second name he wanted the town called. But they vowed that even if the county seat had to be called by a second name, it wouldn't be a second-rater.

"And their progeny are determined to prove that it isn't, by the centennial celebration."

It appears that in Ohio's early days Mr. Brooks, as did others, made purchase of Western lands, and it chanced that upon his the county seat was located, as some one is said to have remarked "that the government might be conducted on a high plane."

Mr. Brooks was son of Rev. Edward Brooks, who gave him the name of his college classmate at Harvard, Peter Chardon. The classmate's father was Pierre Chardon (pronounced *Sherdon*), a French Huguenot. A refugee from France, he became a prosperous Boston merchant and resided on the site of present Bowdoin Square Baptist Church, and the street adjoining still bears his name.

It was characteristic of Mr. Brooks that in naming the new town he should have modestly deferred the family name and given to succeeding time that of his father's friend, whose parents suffered for conscience sake, and sought liberty on these shores. Unlike the Ohio writer, we do not think he "craved perpetual publicity," and deem it fitting to quote from Dr. Everett's anniversary poem: —

"And in the house of prayer
Before him seated, mark that presence mild —
The merchant's brow, that care
With greed or fraud not for one hour defiled;
Borne by wealth's fullest breeze,
He stopped in manhood's prime; and year to year

His books, his friends, his trees,
Made to his ever widening heart more dear,
List, brothers, list, my grandsire's words, and prize
Their homely truth today —
'No use of money truer satisfies
Than giving it away.'"

Doubtless our Medford citizen a century ago found in his gift to the town and county of the new State of Ohio something of that same satisfaction.

Two incidents have been told us by men now living and of nearly fourscore years.

One, when a boy of four, was told "you can get some peaches at Mr. Brooks' house," so taking his basket he started from the old Canal tavern (his father was lock-tender), up the tow-path, a quarter mile. The door of the mansion stood invitingly open. As the boy says, "Mr. B. was standing before a glass, shaving. Turning to me he said, 'Well, my little man, what do you want?' and on being told, 'Well, sit down; I guess you can have them.' Soon calling his serving man he said, 'John, fill this boy's basket and see him safely home.'" All of which made impression on the boy's mind, and he delights to tell it today.

Another: A school-boy from West Cambridge, in his daily walk to Mr. Angier's school in Medford, often got a ride in the "leather topped chaise" as Mr. B. made his daily drive to Boston, and he, too, recalls the kindly words and counsel.

. . . . . .

The Chardon celebration covered three days. Their paper says: "A program of unusual length was carried out without a hitch, the people came from miles around and were entertained as Chardon never did before. And they were pleased, too. It took no end of hard work, and considerable money to finance the Centennial, but Chardon business men and citizens were equal to th occasion."

Chardon is a town of eight thousand people, but like others in Ohio, has a city government.

Just here it is well to remember something of the development of the West. Medford was one hundred and eighty-one years old, and had less than five thousand people when Mr. Brooks gave that site and named that town.

THE SOCIETY'S WORK—PAPERS AND ADDRESSES—SIXTEENTH YEAR, 1911-1912.

October 16.—"A Summer in Germany and Austria." Rosewell B. Lawrence.

November 20.—"The Attempted Rescue of Anthony Burns." George C. Tate.

December 20.—"Along the Banks of the Mystic in the Fifties." Elisha B. Curtis.

January 15.—"Annual Meeting." Short Addresses by Officers of the Bay State Historical League.

February 19.—"The Walnut Tree Hill Division of the Stinted Pasture." John H. Hooper.

March 18. "The Postmasters of Medford." Irving B. Farnum.

April 15.—"Laws and Courts of the Massachusetts Bay Colony." Frank E. Bradbury of Dedham.

May 20.—"Libby Prison." Charles W. Libby.
"Manual Training in the Medford Schools." Joseph T. Whitney.

With this issue the REGISTER closes its fifteenth volume. We have tried to make it a distinctively Medford work of interest and value, and trust that our effort has not been altogether in vain.

THE

MEDFORD HISTORICAL REGISTER

VOL. XVI., 1913

PUBLISHED BY THE
MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEDFORD, MASS.

MEDFORD

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER

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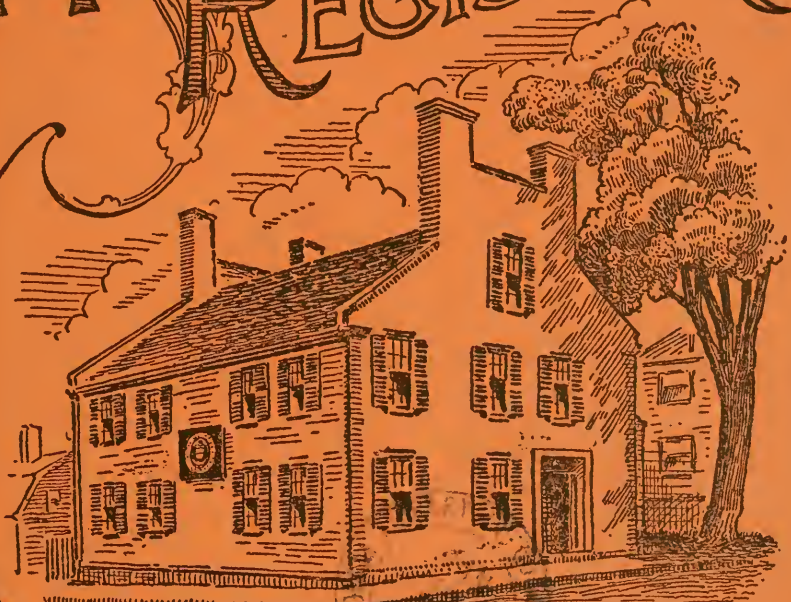

JANUARY, 1913

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MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

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Entered as second-class matter, under the act of July 16, 1894, Medford Station, Boston, Massachusetts.

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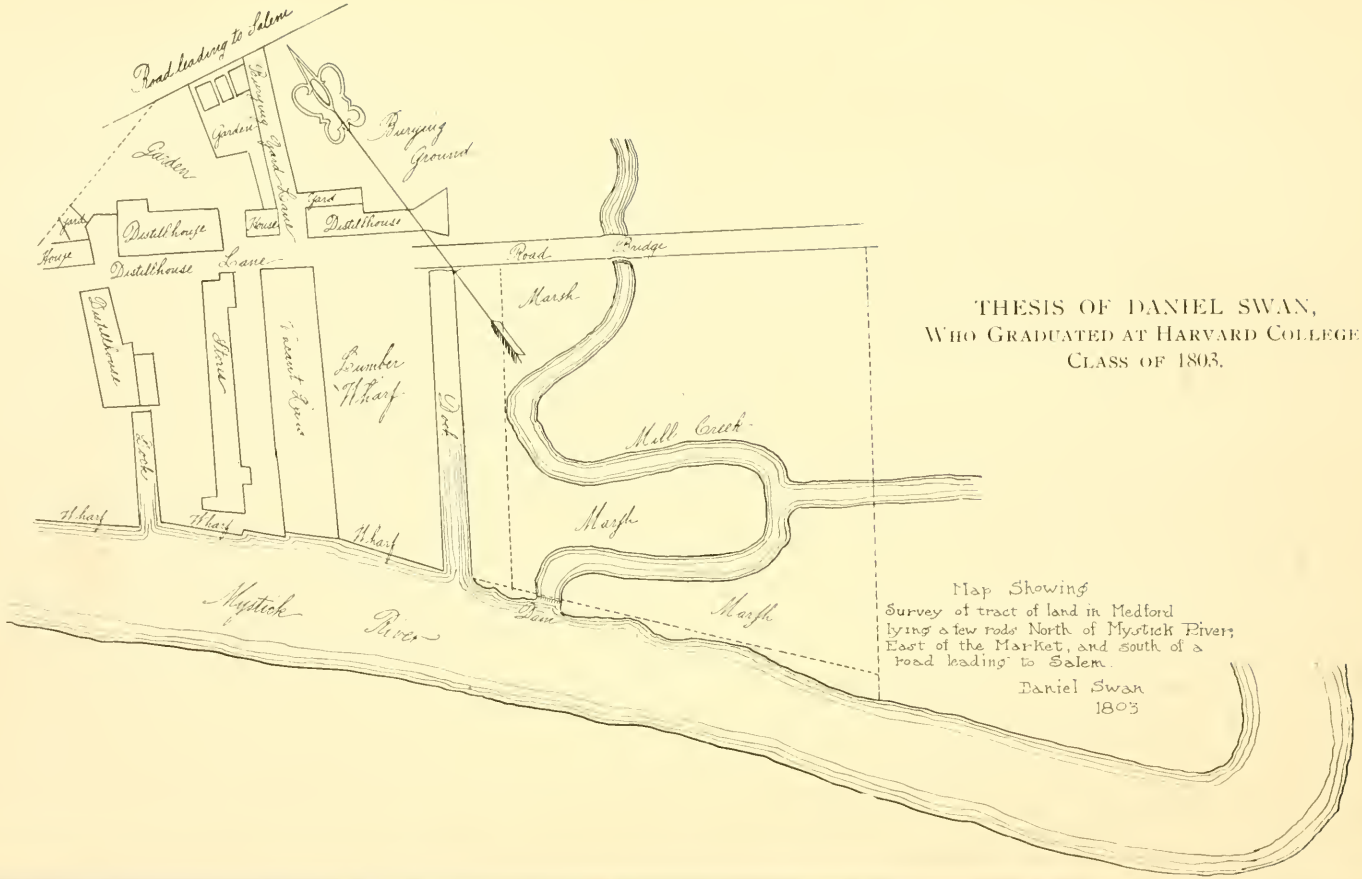
FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of _____ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.



THESIS OF DANIEL SWAN,
WHO GRADUATED AT HARVARD COLLEGE,
CLASS OF 1803.

Map Showing
Survey of tract of land in Medford
lying a few rods North of Mystick River;
East of the Market, and South of a
road leading to Salem.

Daniel Swan
1803

The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. XVI. JANUARY, 1913. No. 1.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND RESIDENTS OF MEDFORD.

ELIZA M. GILL.

[Read before the Medford Historical Society, October 21, 1912.]

AS we turn the leaves of the fifteen volumes of the MEDFORD HISTORICAL REGISTER we find mentioned the names of many well-known people, having more than local fame, who have either been residents in our town, or the guests of Medford families. These names occur in earlier and later colonial times, at the Revolutionary period, in the first and middle part of the last century, and in more recent years.

It is not within the limits of this paper to recall those that have been noticed in the pages of the REGISTER, nor to complete the list of those that have not been printed, but it is sufficient to mention a few, taking them in nearly consecutive periods of time, or else in groups.

The names of the clergymen who were present at the installation, dismissal or burial of Medford pastors, or who came to preach by way of exchange, make a notable list of early Puritan divines who were always honored guests of our people at such times, but as they are found in the histories by Brooks and by Usher, they need no mention.

Although the family of the writer was not among Medford's first settlers, yet she is glad to claim connection with the early history of the place where the family home was established many years ago, through her relative on the paternal side, Judge Samuel Sewall of witchcraft fame. He frequently came to call upon his niece (1713,

etc.), the wife of Rev. Aaron Porter, the first settled pastor of the town.

One Sunday in October, 1738, among the worshipers in Rev. Mr. Turell's congregation was Gov. Jonathan Belcher. As he was one of the royal governors we may imagine he came with some show of pomp, but not enough, we hope, to distract attention from the minister and his discourse.

A touch of the romantic was given our staid little town when Sir Henry Frankland and Agnes Surriage (between 1745 and 1775) came on horseback to call on the Royalls at their fine mansion, then in the height of its splendor. How little did the fair maid from Marblehead then dream that a hundred and fifty years later she would be a beautiful heroine, a figure of interest in prose and poetry, and that a tangible evidence of herself would be exhibited in that house, in the same room, perchance, where she was being received. A fan, with finely carved sticks, and picturing in brilliant colors the coronation of George the Second, that once belonged to Agnes Surriage, was shown at the Sarah Bradlee-Fulton Chapter, D. A. R., Loan Exhibit at the Royall House, April, 1899, and is an heirloom in a well-known family of this city. Nor did the gallant with her that pleasant afternoon think that a Medford minister (Rev. Elias Nason) would one day write a most interesting and accurate account of the life of Sir Charles Henry Frankland, Baronet.

We have a still further connection with Agnes Surriage, since her sister, Mrs. Mary Swain, who inherited the Hopkinton estate and the great mansion in Boston that belonged to Lady Frankland, lived the latter part of her life in Medford; and it is not improbable that Mrs. Mary Swain, who died here in 1800 and whose gravestone may be seen in the Salem Street Burying Ground, and the first mentioned are one and the same. A will of Daniel McClester, son of Mrs. Swain by a former marriage, dated August 1, 1807, bequeathing to his uncle, Isaac Surriage, of Hopkinton, the property above-mentioned which he

had received from his mother, and the death of a Mr. McClester (the name is variously spelled) in Medford, August 13, 1807, give credence to the supposition.

Jeremiah Page of Danvers responded to the Lexington alarm and served as an officer in the Revolution. He was an ardent patriot, and forbade any tea to be drunk under his roof. The story of the clever ruse of his wife, who managed to enjoy her tea drinking without breaking the letter of the law of her liege lord, forgotten by reason of her death, that occurred soon after, was not recalled until nearly seventy years had passed, and was revived again at the time of the centennial celebrations of the stirring events of the Revolution, and made the subject of a pleasing poem by Lucy Larcom.

Stories told in rhyme deviate from facts and are not always plain, unvarnished tales, but the poetic license accorded to and used by poets only adds to the charm of the story, and knowing this we can take without harm our dose of poetry and fiction. I imagine Miss Larcom's poem, "A Gambrel Roof," differs but little from the true facts of the case, and though perhaps a digression from our subject, the following concerning Dill, whom Miss Larcom introduced in her story, may not be amiss. One authority says the child was bought April 19, 1766, and died about the middle of the nineteenth century, a nonagenarian. The item to which I especially refer was made public by the *Boston Herald*, November 8, 1908, and was a receipt, given in connection with a sale of slaves, found in a garret of a house in North Adams, and reads as follows: —

Danvers, Mass., April 19, 1774.

Received of Mr. Jeremiah Page fifty eight pounds thirteen Shillings And fore pence lawful money And a negro woman called dinah, which in full for A negro girl Call Cato And A negro Child Called deliverance or dill which I now sell and deliver to ye said Jeremiah Page.

Frank Tapley.
John Bancroft.
General John Stark.

Boston, Mass., April 18, 1774.

The Page homestead, in good condition, is today one of the historic places pointed out to the visitor to Danvers. Our interest in the young man who built this colonial house for himself at the time of his marriage in 1750, and who became a man of force, ability and distinction, lies in the fact that he was Medford born and lived here till early manhood. We find his name on our tax-rate lists for 1744, '45, '46. At the invitation of a Mr. Andrews, whose daughter he married afterwards, he went to Danvers to engage in the business of brick making. Without doubt he had learned much concerning it in the various brick-yards in his birthplace.

Four young men, all but the last being graduates of Harvard, began their public life as teachers in our town school, and though their residence was only for a brief period, as they became eminent in professional circles, it is pleasant to mark their connection with the history of Medford: —

First. Nathaniel Thayer graduated from college at the age of nineteen, and at twenty began the study of divinity with Dr. Osgood, at the same time taking charge of our grammar school. He was teacher in the second schoolhouse from October, 1789, to December, 1790. He was ordained when twenty-four years of age and became pastor of the Unitarian Church in Lancaster, where he was a loved and respected pastor for fifty years. His father had served the church in Hampton, N. H., forty years. Dr. Osgood preached the sermon, taking his text from Acts 20: 27, "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." The good doctor must have had a tender and loving feeling for the youth who had been under his instruction and guidance, and we believe he bespoke for the young man the respect and loyal following of the people who were to become his charge.

The firm of John E. Thayer and Brothers was established by his sons, the members of which amassed great wealth. The younger generations of these families are

widely known today in financial and social circles. A son, who bore his father's name, was the munificent patron of Harvard College and of the town of Lancaster, still the residence of the Thayers.

Dudley Hall (1780–1868) used to tell of his being a pupil, when ten years old, of Nathaniel Thayer.

A side light is thrown upon the importance of Dr. Osgood in the community by the fact that of the one hundred copies of the "Sermon and Charge and Right Hand of Fellowship" printed by the town, twelve were given to our Medford minister. Twenty were for Mr. Thayer, six for the president of Harvard, sixteen to as many clergymen, and the rest were given to heads of families in the congregation.

Second. In the third schoolhouse a young man taught for six months (December, 1796, to July, 1797), who afterwards taught theology for nearly forty years in Andover Theological Seminary. He was the celebrated Leonard Woods, D.D. He joined the church under Dr. Osgood and was the life-long friend of his pastor, though their views on theological points varied greatly.

On leaving our town his connection with it did not cease, for Dr. Woods' youngest daughter married Rev. A. R. Baker, who was settled over the Second Congregational Society from 1838–1848.

I find no mention of Mrs. Baker in Mrs. Sargent's paper, "Literary Medford," published in the REGISTER, January, 1912. She was an able woman and a voluminous author, was born in Andover, Mass., August 19, 1815, and educated at the famous Abbot Female Seminary. She was married three years previous to coming to Medford. Her books were not published till after her removal from here. The list comprises nearly two hundred volumes, most of them juvenile stories, "Tim the Scissors-Grinder" being the most popular. Several were translated into French and German. Fifty years ago she was known to many readers by her pseudonyms of *Madeline Leslie* and *Aunt Hattie.*

Her husband assisted her in editing some of her writings, and she assisted him in editing "Theology in Romance," a work of two volumes. She wrote "Reminiscences of Leonard Woods," edited and wrote in part her father's "History of the Andover Seminary." Mr. Baker wrote a number of works on theological subjects, and while in Medford published "A School History of the United States, containing Maps, a Chronological Chart, and an Outline of Topics for a More Extensive Course of Study" (1843). Mrs. Baker died in Brooklyn, N. Y., April 27, 1893. A son, born in 1845, is one of the prominent physicians today in Boston — Dr. William H. Baker, named for a member of his father's parish.

Third. Samuel Weed taught from February, 1806, to August, 1807. He studied medicine with Dr. Brooks, and after settling in Portland, Me., came to Medford for his bride, marrying Maria Condy. He was a physician of the old-school type in dignity, graciousness and worth, like Doctors Brooks and Swan, and was greatly beloved and highly respected in Portland, where he died in 1857 at the age of eighty-three.

Fourth. A later teacher in the West Grammar School became the eloquent preacher and gifted writer, Thomas Starr King. He received his appointment November 25, 1842, through the influence of his father's friend, Rev. Hosea Ballou, 2d, pastor of the Universalist Church, though the only drawback to the applicant was his youth. The family removed here and Starr wrote, "I am very much pleased with the change, and delighted with the Medford people."

While on a visit he wrote to a relative, "We have a fine Unitarian preacher there [Medford], Rev. C. Stetson, with whom I am intimately acquainted. He is a man of solid acquirements, weighing some three hundred pounds. I have attended his church pretty often since my removal, which has occasioned mother some worriment, which you may suppose is no way lessened when I tell her, at least twice a week, that I intend taking a

class in his Sabbath School, and studying for the Unitarian ministry."

It seems that the ministers of the First Parish made deep impressions on many young men.

Theodore Parker, on a visit here, wrote in his diary April 13, 1843, "Saw schoolmaster Thomas Starr King,—capital fellow, only nineteen. Taught school three years. Supports his mother. He went into Walker's three courses of lectures, and took good notes. Reads French, Spanish, Latin, Italian, a little Greek and begins German. He is a good listener."

He resigned his position August 1, 1843. In 1845, at the invitation of the citizens of Medford, he delivered the Fourth of July oration in the Unitarian Church.

Service in our schools seems to have been a good preparation for a wider life of usefulness and prominence. Many pupils must have been stimulated and greatly influenced for good by such earnest, fine young spirits as Starr King and his predecessors in office.

The most distinguished guests within our borders have been two of world-wide fame, Washington (1789) and Lafayette (1824). The magnet that drew them was John Brooks, their comrade-in-arms.

President James Monroe, during his term of office, on a visit to Boston in 1817, was in Medford twice. A Boston newspaper says that Thursday, July 3, he came with his suite in carriages to return a call made him by Governor Brooks, "partook of an elegant collation, visited the delightful neighborhood," and on the Saturday following "dined with Governor Brooks returning to Boston at 6 o'clock."

The elegant collation and delightful neighborhood evidently refer to the reception given to the president by Peter C. Brooks at his fine country estate in West Medford, to which he graciously invited his neighbors. Mrs. Elijah Smith, the site of whose home was where Boston avenue meets High street on the south side, attended the reception, taking a little daughter of five months.

The grown-up people present, telling the story of that pleasant afternoon in later years, remembered that strawberries were served, and undoubtedly they were fine if grown on the host's ground, as they probably were; while the baby girl when she grew up had the pretty story to tell that President Monroe took her in his arms and kissed her.

Mrs. Smith was the grandmother of Mr. Wait and the Misses Wait, members of our historical society.

If the after life of some who had a brief residence with us has been a recital of interest we may pardonably have a stronger feeling, one of pride even, in Medford born sons and daughters who have made themselves useful or famous in the world, after going forth from our midst. In this class we shall notice five.

The most picturesque period of our colonial history was the governorship of William Shirley and the most picturesque event of his administration was the planning of the capture of Louisburg.

The act of the Massachusetts boy, the Medford lad, will appeal even to younger readers. He was in the band of thirteen, a reconnoitering party under Vaughan, who, noticing that no smoke was issuing from the barrack chimneys and no flag floating from the staff, entered the battery, after an Indian had crawled in at an embrasure and opened the gate.

They found the place empty, for the French frightened by the smoke of the burning warehouses containing their naval stores which Vaughan had set on fire the night before, had fled in terror, after spiking the guns and cutting the halliards. As there was no flag and Vaughan was ready to report the capture of the fort in the name of England, while waiting for one, William Tufts, a boy of eighteen, climbed the staff with his red coat in his teeth and nailed it to the top.

This bold act, which evinced a sturdy and courageous nature even in a time when men were made of stern stuff for rough work, has been noticed by many writers, but

frequently without mention of the lad's name. The following is from the *Boston Gazette* of 3 June, 1771.

"Medford, May 25, 1771. This Day died here, Mr. William Tufts, jun., aged about 44 Years, and left a widow and a Number of small Children to lament his Loss. As an Husband, he was kind and benevolent; as a Parent, tender and affectionate; a good Neighbor, and very industrious in his Calling. He lived beloved, and died lamented, and made a hopeful Change. When he was about 18 years of age he enlisted a volunteer into the service of his King and Country in the Expedition against Cape-Britain under the command of Lt. General Pepperrell, in the year 1745 — where he signalized his Courage in a remarkable Manner at the Island Battery, when the unsuccessful Attempt was made by a Detachment from the Army to take by Storm. He got into the Battery, notwithstanding the heavy Fire of the French Artillery and small Arms, climbed up the Flag-Staff, struck the French Colors, pulled off his read Great Coat, and hoisted it on the Staff as English Colors, all which Time there was a continued Fire at him from the Small Arms of the French, and got down untouched, tho' many Bullets went thro' his Trousers and Cloathes."

"Query. If a Roman Soldier had done such a bold, daring and Loyal action, would he not have had a Monument of Fame erected for him? or at least some gratuity made him by his king and country?

"And now his Family is needy."

Perhaps this obituary was written by some partisan friend or loving relative in whose eyes the act seemed greater than in those of the writers who have omitted to mention Tufts' name. Parkman, who will be spoken of later, covers the period of this war in his "Half Century of Conflict," and truly no historical writing can be more simple, more charming, or more complete in detail of facts, and for pleasant and interesting reading I commend the book to the attention of our school children.

In 1871 this newspaper account was reprinted in full in an article where the story was told again for the public, and since that time it has been given by successive writers with the youth's name, though Parkman suggests that the act was over exploited. It has been written for young readers by another author and I hope the boys and girls will know all the history concerning William Tufts and also of the events in which he took part.

When the news of the capture of Louisburg reached Boston at one o'clock in the morning of July 3, two months afterwards, bells and cannon woke the slumbering people and they celebrated the glad event with fireworks and bonfires, and shouting crowds filled the streets.

Shall we not imagine that some wave of this enthusiasm rolled over Medford when they heard of the exploit of the soldier boy in King George the Second's army who belonged in their midst and had come home a hero?

In 1907 the *Boston Globe* issued a set of one hundred pictures, printing one each day, illustrating events in American history, asking school children to send answers naming the event the picture was drawn to illustrate. To those entering the contest, sums of money were awarded for correct answers, and I think it greatly to the credit of our city that six girls of Medford and three boys won prizes. The description of No. 72 was "William Tufts of Medford nailing his red coat to staff as a substitute for British flag, at the attack on Louisburg, May 3, 1745."

The life story of the child of Scotch-Irish descent whose birth was May 1, 1732, is one full of interest. With the immigration of the sturdy and worthy Scotch-Irish to New England, several families came to Medford. William McClintock, when others of his companions went on to found the town of Londonderry, N. H., named for their old world home, settled on the Mystic river. He married four times, had nineteen children and died at the age of ninety. I do not know how long he remained here, but for some years the McClintock name was on the town records. The William McClintock and his wife Jane, who settled here for a few years after their marriage and moved to Boothbay, Me., was probably a son of the former. William the elder was an industrious farmer, laboring quietly, not entering into public life. His third wife was the mother of Samuel, coming with her husband to New England. The boy's education began in our grammar school and was continued under Master Minot

at Concord, Mass., and Rev. Mr. Abercrombie in an academy near Northampton, Mass.

He graduated from the college of New Jersey in 1751, which was then at Newark. A few years later it was removed to Princeton and has since been known by that name. He was under the tutelage and influence of President Burr, father of Aaron Burr. His service to his country and his sacrifices were in direct contrast to that of the president's notorious and despised son.

Samuel McClintock became the pastor of the Congregational Church in Greenland, N. H., and died in active service in the forty-eighth year of his ministry, having had but one pastorate. His death occurred April 27, 1804, at the age of seventy-two years. He was married twice and had fifteen children.

He was a pronounced patriot, served as chaplain in the French war and repeatedly as chaplain to various bands of New Hampshire soldiers in the Revolution. He had four sons in the Continental Army, three of whom gave their lives to the colonists' cause. He was present at the Battle of Bunker Hill and knelt and prayed with head uncovered and with uplifted hands, for the success of his country during the raging of the battle and the flying of the bullets. (See MEDFORD HISTORICAL REGISTER, Vol. VIII, No. 1, p. 23.) This incident has been commemorated by Mrs. Sigourney in the following poem: —

It was an hour of fear and dread —
  High rose the battle-cry,
And round, in heavy volume, spread
  The war cloud to the sky.
'Twas not, as when in rival strength
  Contending nations meet,
Or love of conquest madly hurls
  A monarch from his seat:

Yet one was there, unused to tread
  The path of mortal strife,
Who but the Saviour's flock had fed
  Beside the fount of life.

He knelt him where the black smoke wreathed —
His head was bowed and bare, —
While for an infant land he breathed
The agony of prayer.

The column, red with early morn,
May tower o'er Bunker's height,
And proudly tell a race unborn
Their patriot father's might: —
But thou, O patriarch, old and gray,
Thou prophet of the free,
Who knelt among the dead that day,
What fame shall rise to thee!

It is not meet that brass or stone
Which feel the touch of time,
Shall keep the record of a faith
That woke the deed sublime:
We trace it to the tablet fair,
Which glows when stars wax pale,
A promise that the good man's prayer
Shall with his God prevail.

Samuel McClintock was considered one of the best classical scholars in New England, received degrees from his own college, Harvard and Yale. His printed sermons and papers form quite a list, but with such ponderous titles as to deter modern readers from looking farther than the titles.

In 1784 Dr. McClintock had the honor of preaching the first election sermon at the inaugural ceremonies of the governor of New Hampshire, a custom that was continued until 1861. He took for his text Jer. 18:7-10.

Although Bunker Hill Day is not generally observed outside of Massachusetts, yet the grave of Rev. Samuel McClintock, chaplain at the Battle of Bunker Hill, is always decorated at that time.

You who are lovers of history and searchers among records would not have us fail to mention another William Tufts out of gratitude, for "no one was so able to aid seekers after historical documents, and no one could have been more ready." May, 1857, he bought a home in Salem and made his residence there, where

he died, June 3, 1861. The "Salem Register" says, "An old and faithful servant of the commonwealth, William Tufts, Esq., died at his residence in this city on Monday. Mr. Tufts was in his seventy-fifth year, having been born in Medford, March 1, 1787. From 1815 to 1850 he was well known to all who had business transactions at the state house, having been for a long period the chief clerk in the office of the secretary of the commonwealth. For several years past he has resided in Salem, quietly enjoying the fruits of his well-spent active life."

Capt. James Gilchrist, born in Danvers, 1770, married Susan Wyman of Medford, June 10, 1805. He was engaged in the East India trade, sailing from Salem and Boston. They made their home in the house on High street generally called the Train house, moved to the one called the Ebenezer Turell or Jonathan Porter house, then again to the former. Six or seven of their nine children were born in this town, and after a residence of seventeen years the family moved to Charlestown, N. H., where Captain Gilchrist died, 1827. When we see what was the caliber of the members of this family, we realize that what was our loss was New Hampshire's gain.

John James Gilchrist, born February 16, 1809, and Edward Gilchrist, born February 15, 1811, must have received their early education here. The former was a pupil at the school of John Angier. He graduated from Harvard, 1828, and upon being admitted to the bar established himself in Charlestown, N. H. He married a daughter of a former governor of that state, and became successful in the practice of his profession. He was early called to the head of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire, and was appointed one of the judges of the Court of Claims by President Pierce. He discharged his duties with marked ability and was greatly esteemed. He died at Washington, April 20, 1858. His intimate friend and classmate, Hon. George S. Hillard, elsewhere mentioned in this paper, wrote a long and highly complimentary obituary notice of Chief Justice Gilchrist

which even one who did not know him could but enjoy reading. In it he says of his friend no one had a better claim than he to the "grand old name of gentleman."

Edward became a surgeon in the navy in 1832 and joined Commodore Wilkes' United States exploring expedition. He left it at Valparaiso about 1840, returned home and became resident physician and surgeon in Chelsea Naval Hospital, where he died suddenly November 4, 1869. His obituary was also written by Mr. Hillard.

A sister, Martha, became the second wife of Chief Justice Cushing, who succeeded her brother John James as Chief Justice of New Hampshire.

When the family moved to Charlestown, in 1822, "Mrs. Gilchrist opened a select school for young ladies which was continued for a considerable time. She was a highly educated lady, and previous to her marriage to Captain Gilchrist had been a teacher in Medford, in the celebrated school of Mrs. Rowson. Her school soon acquired a wide reputation, and pupils were attracted to it from a great distance. It was commenced at South Charlestown, but after the death of Captain Gilchrist, in 1827, the family removed to the village and it was continued there. The school was discontinued about 1833, in consequence of the marriage of her three eldest daughters, from whom she had been accustomed to receive great assistance." Mrs. Gilchrist, who was born in Woburn, Mass., died in Charlestown, N. H., March 20, 1858, at the age of seventy-four.

Two won their laurels in the dramatic profession.

T. Allston Brown in his "History of the American Stage 1733-1870," says Mrs. Bannister was born in Chester, N. H., and that her maiden name was Green. "Records of the New York Stage 1750-1860," by Joseph N. Ireland, states that she "was born of a respectable family in the State of New Hampshire," and a third authority says that her maiden name was Green.

Over against these statements, stand those of the

members of this society before mentioned in this paper, and to them we give credence as again it is a matter of family history, for the lady whom we are now discussing was a relative, a cousin of their father.

It is not strange that in the matter of names a mistake should occur, for she had a middle name, not so common in her time as it is today, and the name of her last husband singularly was the same as her maiden name.

Amelia was baptized, according to the First Parish records, October 6, 1799. She was the daughter of John and Lydia (Fulton) Bannister of Boston, who were married there by the Rev. James Freeman, December 31, 1789. Her mother was the daughter of John and Sarah (Bradlee) Fulton, our local heroine of the Revolution.

There is one saying we do not have to take with a grain of salt, and that is, that no one can escape death and taxes, and the tax lists and assessors' books of New England towns are a great help in proving residence.

Mr. and Mrs. Bannister became residents of Medford a few years after their marriage. His name is first found on the tax list 1797 and last in 1800. He owned one-half of a house.

Amelia was baptized October 6, 1799 (according to the First Parish records), by the name of *Pamelia*, but was always *called* by the former name. Two brothers were baptized at the same time and given respectively the names of John Fulton and Samuel Bradlee. Another child born March 18 was on March 30 christened Mary Adams, and died September 20, 1800. An infant child of the Bannisters died April 23, 1798. Other children in this family were Josiah, David, Charles, Rinaldo.

She married first a Christopher Legge, had a son named Christopher Lucius Legge, who, when his mother married John Augustus Stone, took the name of Stone. By her second husband she had a son named Henry F. Stone. Her third husband was Nathaniel H. Bannister, who was born in Baltimore and died in New York, 1847. He was not related to her father's family. Each of these

was an actor, the latter being also an author. He wrote the equestrian drama, Putnam.

Amelia, the third in point of age, spent her early days in this town. Then the family moved to Boston, where she was educated. She soon acquired a taste for the stage.

She played for many years in New York and Philadelphia, but never in Boston, on account of her relatives' dislike for her having adopted the stage as a profession. She experienced, in the place of her birth, the Puritan aversion to the stage and the people connected with it, so much stronger in her day than now, and in the homes of some cousins she was never welcomed.

She made her debut in Pittsburg, Penn., in 1817 as Mrs. Blanford in "Speed the Plough." Her first appearance in New York was in 1822-3 as Adelgitha in the play of that name. She was long known at the Bowery and other New York theatres. She took such parts as Letitia Hardy in the "Belle's Stratagem," Leonora in the "Lovers' Quarrels" and Mrs. Malfort in the "Soldier's Daughter." She made her first appearance as the latter, when she was engaged for the so-called heavy business.

On July 2, 1822, a company of amateurs opened an establishment under the name of the City Theater. Only three had any stage experience, Mrs. Legge being one.

"The latter was young, talented and interesting in appearance, a careful and understanding reader, and in a good school of acting would have probably attained distinction, but it has been her misfortune to be generally attached to theaters where her abilities have been wasted on the worst of melodramas, and her true beauties undiscovered or unappreciated.

"During the long run of Uncle Tom's Cabin at the National Theater, in 1853, Mrs. Bannister was the representative of the revengeful yet sympathizing Cassy."

She died in New Jersey about 1879. The dates of her marriage can be approximately determined by facts. In 1817 she was known as Mrs. Legge, as Mrs. Stone in 1855.

After a few years' absence from New York she reappeared as Mrs. Bannister. She seems always to have appeared under her own name; for her stage career we have relied upon the printed authorities mentioned above.

Mrs. Bannister was connected with the writer's family (a great aunt having married Amelia's brother David), and the actress' name has often been mentioned in our home. Our aunt, feeling her nieces' education was being sadly neglected and their pleasure much curtailed, begged the privilege of taking sister and myself to the theatre, and in her company one Saturday afternoon we made our first acquaintance with the play-house. The memory of that rapturous afternoon, and the new kid gloves worn on the great occasion, still lingers with us. Our ardor was somewhat dampened when we were told at home we could not go again if we were going to talk so much about the play on Sunday.

The mistake made long since, for the books mentioned were published forty years ago, we may not be able to right, but we dare to offer you, our hearers this evening, the correction, and say that Amelia Green Bannister was born in Medford.

Edwin Adams was the eighth in descent from Henry Adams, the immigrant who settled at Braintree. His branch of the family appears to have gone to Medfield. His parents were Elisha Adams, Jr., and Caroline (Boyden) of Walpole, and their residence is given as Dorchester or Medford. All the children, save Edwin, were born in Dorchester.

Though his birth is not on our town records (like others previously mentioned in this paper), an Adams genealogy, numerous encyclopædias and biographies state that Edwin Adams was born in Medford, Mass., February 3, 1834. As he was an actor of considerable note we will not challenge this statement, but let Medford have the glory given her of having produced another genius within her borders.

His first appearance on the stage was as Stephen in

"The Hunchback" at the National Theater, Boston, August 29, 1853. His career is too well known, and accounts of his life and work are so easily accessible that we give but a few facts concerning him. He played in many cities in this country, and went to Australia. Enoch Arden and Shakespeare's characters were his favorite roles. He was associated with Edwin Booth in the latter's theater in New York, and played with him in the Boston Theater in 1870. He was considered one of the best light comedians on the stage. "His voice was of wonderful richness, strength and melody." His wife was also an actress and dancer, but on the death of her husband retired from the stage. He died in Philadelphia, October 25, 1877. A friend has described to me his house at Long Branch. On the exterior it had the appearance of being three stories in height but the interior had but two stories. This arrangement gave a large and lofty room for the practicing of his parts and for giving entertainments.

This Society has hanging on the wall of its library a framed play bill of that fateful night in Washington, April 14, 1865. At the bottom is the announcement, "Easter Monday, April 17, Engagement of the Young American Tragedian, Edwin Adams."

A little boy at the age of eight came to live on his grandfather's farm (1831), a part of the estate of the late Gen. S. C. Lawrence, the house where the lad lived for four years being the one called the Peter C. Hall house on Winthrop street, now numbered 343. He attended John Angier's private school on Forest street, roamed the Middlesex Fells, gaining a love of nature and a knowledge of woods and fields that became valuable to him in his life's work, for he became the great and scholarly historian, Francis Parkman, the cultivator of fine roses and president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. The writer remembers his dignified manner as she sat opposite him at a banquet of the society.

Harriet Martineau, the English writer, came to this

country in 1835, remaining two years. She was a guest in the home of Rev. Caleb Stetson, pastor of the First Parish, Medford, and corresponded with him. The parsonage then was the home on High street, later the residence of the late John Ayres, now the site of the parish house of St. Joseph's Church. As the guest and family sat together looking out on the Mystic river below, or low lying Pasture Hill above, there must have been much pleasant conversation on subjects of common interest, for Miss Martineau's brother was a celebrated Unitarian divine.

A relative of the Stetsons says, "There floats in my mind a dim tradition of Miss Lucy Osgood having made a tea party for Miss Martineau at that time, borrowing my aunt's guest knives and forks, as extras were needed, but not inviting her. I doubt if any ladies were present but the two sisters and Miss Martineau; they found manly-scholarly conversation much more to their liking than the usual feminine-domestic. Yet no one relished a spicy bit of gossip, not unfriendly, more than they, but it must be the spice, not the substance, of life."

John Quincy Adams visited his favorite niece, Abby S. Adams, wife of John Angier, in the house built by Mr. Angier, which became the property of our esteemed townsman, the late Eleazar Boynton. We can determine the time of his being here by the dates of the marriage and death of his niece, 1831 and 1845. On this estate, on the west side of the lawn, is a Scotch laburnum and an English oak planted by Mr. Adams. He brought them as small cuttings from abroad, before importations of such goods were common by nurserymen and florists.

A manuscript piece of music, the work of Mr. Adams, is in the possession of the family who own the Surriage fan.

Daniel Webster came one summer day (before 1852) to call on a friend who was boarding here, and together they went to pay their respects to Rev. William Adams. Doctor Adams was spending his vacation at the home

of his father-in-law, Thatcher Magoun, the senior ship builder. He married Susan P. Magoun in 1831, and her sister, Martha B. Magoun, in 1835. He was an admirer of Webster and a distinguished man himself and was called one of the noted clergymen of New York City.

He was pastor of the Madison Square Presbyterian Church, and at his Sunday evening services the aisles were filled with benches, and people stood up, so great were the crowds that gathered to hear him preach. He published several volumes of sermons and other works, and on giving up preaching became President of Union Theological Seminary. He was born in Colchester, Conn., January 25, 1807, and died in New York, August 31, 1880.

Dr. Adams and his family spent the summers in Medford, and he was very well known by many families of this town. They were attendants at the First Trinitarian Church, where the courtesy of the pulpit was always extended to the distinguished clergyman, and when the rumor went round that Dr. Adams was to preach, there was a large audience who had the privilege of hearing a fine sermon.

Ex-Governor Boutwell, Secretary of the State Board of Education, presided at the dedication of the new schoolhouse on Park street (December 24, 1855), built to replace the one burned.*

Edward Everett married a daughter of Peter C. Brooks and lived for a while in the house on High street west of the Public Library, now occupied by the Misses Ayres. Another daughter of Mr. Brooks married Charles Francis Adams, son of John Quincy Adams, in 1829. At that time Mr. Brooks had the reputation of being the wealthiest man in New England.

A letter written by Edward Everett while here is in possession of our Public Library, and one dated 15 June, 1857, was headed Medford. A ship built in the yard of Paul Curtis in 1843 was named the *Edward Everett*, and

*The school was then named in honor of Dr. Daniel Swan, who was specially invited to be present. He attended, but was unaware of the fact until it was publicly announced.

our town honored the distinguished statesman by naming one of her school buildings for him.

It adds to the interest of local and general history to recall the fact that John Brown (before 1859) was a guest at the home of George L. Stearns, and received sympathy and encouragement from the host and his wife. If he could only have looked down the years to see Doctor Booker T. Washington* that fine specimen of the despised race he really died for, entertained by our high-minded citizens and listened to by the largest audience ever gathered in Medford, how his soul would have been cheered; but John Brown only saw the promised land from the top of Mount Pisgah.

No choicer spirits, singly or in companies, ever gathered in any home in this town than were found in the home of George L. Stearns. Men and women of the noblest type, ready to sacrifice themselves and their property for the good of mankind, distinguished lawyers and writers, were those who were welcomed within those hospitable walls, and I doubt if our towns-people were ever really cognizant of what transpired there, or were in touch with the inmates of the red house on the hill who formed a little world apart by themselves. George S. Hillard, Moncure D. Conway, and greater lights like Rufus Choate, Wendell Phillips, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Bronson Alcott and Julia Ward Howe were guests of the Stearns family. Later came Julian, son of Nathaniel Hawthorne, a school friend of one of the sons.

Lest we forget what the country and our state owes to this man, of whom we ought to be proud as being a citizen of Medford, let us recall with gratitude these verses from Whittier's tribute to George L. Stearns: —

> He has done the work of a true man, —
> Crown him, honor him, love him.
> Weep over him, tears of woman,
> Stoop manliest brows above him!
>
> . . . . . .

* December 17, 1905, Opera House and Mystic Church.

For the warmest of hearts is frozen,
The freest of hands is still;
And the gap in our picked and chosen
The long years may not fill.

No duty could overtask him,
No need his will outrun;
Or ever our lips could ask him,
His hands the work had done.

He forgot his own soul for others,
Himself to his neighbors lending;
He found the Lord in his suffering brothers,
And not in the clouds descending.

. . . . . .

Never rods to the wrongs redressing
A worthier paladin.
Shall he not hear the blessing,
"Good and faithful, enter in."

Phillips Brooks was frequently at the house (1861–1863) of Mrs. A. K. Hathaway, Ashland street, to see a friend who boarded there.

Some of our citizens remember that George L. Brown, the well-known artist, made his home (1863) in the old Bishop house on Salem street opposite the burying ground, for a year or so. Mr. Brown had a married sister, Mrs. Myrick, who lived on South street court. This may account for the artist's presence among us.

He had a daughter, Angelica, born in Rome, I believe, who attended the Everett School. In appearance and speech she differed just enough from her Yankee playmates to be interesting. Her father could have been seen many a day (for our town then was a quiet place with but few people on the street) sitting on a stool on the sidewalk in front of his house, palette and brush in hand, with an umbrella over his head, busily engaged in painting. Possibly he was taking the colors and tints from the sky that have given the glow to so many of his pictures, to be used at a later time, for though he lived abroad many years he returned to America in 1860, and from the following item in the *Art Journal*, May, 1875,

we may infer that Medford was placed under contribution for art's sake: "Brown's 'Sunrise, Genoa' [1875], is one of those gorgeous, idealized, hazy Italian scenes, for which this artist is so much noted, in the vein of Turner."

Is it not something to have had with us an artist whose pictures are to be seen in the Boston Art Club and Boston Athenæum, and were found in the homes of Governor Claflin, Governor Fairbanks of Vermont, Henry Ward Beecher and Edward VII of England, who as Prince of Wales purchased during his visit to this country Brown's "Crown of New England?"

Rev. John Pierpont, who had been minister to the First Parish, died in 1866 while visiting in the place of his labors.

So eminent an artist as Richard M. Staigg, who had been a pupil of Washington Allston, and excelled in miniature painting, had pupils here to whom he gave instruction in drawing (about 1863).

John G. Whittier was a guest in the home of his brother, Matthew Francis Whittier, who at that time (1865–8) owned the cottage house on Pleasant street (present number 50), now occupied by Mrs. Sarah K. Tebbetts, from whom she bought the property in 1871. The house has been much enlarged and altered, and at that time a neat iron fence was in front of the estate. This was the brother to whom the poet referred in "Snow Bound," in these lines: —

> "Ah, brother! only I and thou
> Are left of all that circle now,—
> The dear home faces whereupon
> That fitful firelight paled and shone."

Matthew Whittier wrote under the name of *Ethan Spike*, and in physical and general characteristics was unlike the gentle poet. He was tall, of rather heavy features and florid complexion. On the street he was a noticeable figure, for he wore a long cape, tall hat and though very erect carried a stout cane. When I first

saw him I thought some old Puritan had come back to life.

Charles R. Adams, who won fame on the operatic stage abroad, is remembered by many, as he had a residence here for several years (1879–1882). At that time he was filling an engagement with opera companies at the Boston Theatre. In his early years he was a tenor singer of high qualifications, with a voice of great expression of feeling. He was born in Somerville and later moved to Boston. He displayed a taste for singing when very young. He spent many years in Germany and Austria, where he became a celebrated opera singer. The Emperor of Austria frequently requested Mr. Adams to sing before him and his friends at Vienna, and Mr. Adams brought home to America a laurel wreath presented him while abroad.

Antonio F. de Navarro received reflected glory by his marriage (1889) with Mary Anderson, the beautiful actress. We mention him because he was a pupil at the A. K. Hathaway private school on Chestnut street, where there were many students of Spanish extraction. (The school lasted from 1846–1860.)

Who can say that Medford has not an interesting history back of her with plenty of variety? Is there not enough charm in it to attract the attention of the boys and girls for whom our city today is spending money so generously to provide them with elegant school buildings, finely equipped, and giving them well trained, conscientious teachers of high ability? Are not some of these boys and girls going to give a little time to the study of the history of the city that is either their birthplace or home, and then become the successors of the members of the Medford Historical Society of today?

Medford has had many eminent sons and daughters, and they have allied themselves with families equally distinguished, and the history of the future of our city may be even more brilliant than that of the past, but let the young people of today remember that the making of the future has a strong relation to the past.

"THE GOOD OLD DAYS."

[From the Independent Chronicle, Boston, May 5, 1803.]

PROPOSALS

FOR CARRYING THE MAILS OF THE V STATES, ON THE FOLLOWING POST ROADS,

Will be received at the General Post Office in Washington City until the first day of July next, (1803) inclusive.

In Massachusetts, 15. From Portsmouth, N. H., by Exeter, Kingston, Haverhill, Andover, Wilmington, Woburn and Medford to Boston, three times a week. Leave Portsmouth every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 3 A.M., and arrive at Boston by 7 P.M. Leave Boston every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at 3 A.M., and arrive in Portsmouth by 7 P.M.

A column and a half of the four on the page is devoted to the enumeration of other stage routes, then follows a half column of Notes signed by the Postmaster-General. No. 7 reads thus:

"No other than a free white person shall be employed to convey the mail."

A former resident of Medford says, "Stage driving added much to the life of old Medford in those days. The Boston and Lowell line for many years was one of the hourly attractions of the day as well as the commercial benefits of the town."

A BILL OF MR. WYMAN'S.

SALEM May 25th 1819

Mr. Joseph Wyman Jr. Dr. to Messrs. Frothingham & Loring

to a new Stage Coach Complete at	$430:97
deduct for pole straps	4
	426:97

Rec'd payment Frothingham & Loring

There is a great difference between the price of a stage coach of a century ago and the automobile of today.

A hundred years ago Medford seems to have been in the lime light, to use a modern expression. Today she has lost her identity in Greater Boston; and where now can be found an advertisement of her manufactures or of her merchants' wares? Not in any one of Boston's numerous newspapers.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

West Medford, December 2, 1912.

Editor of the Register: —

Some six years ago, while searching among the ancient files in Harvard College Library for other information, I came across a map or plan of land near Medford Square that interested me. Procuring a sheet of tracing paper I made a copy of the same. I learned that it was the graduation thesis of a Medford boy, who afterward studied medicine with Dr. Brooks, and who succeeded to the latter's practice when he was elected governor. A little later a friend, Frank V. Smith, artist and book illustrator, reproduced the same for me on Bristol board, and his work is practically a fac-similie of the original. I am turning it over to the Historical Society, as being of interest and a record of the locality of over a century ago.

The quaint letters of the long S script made by the young collegian are as accurate as I could trace them. The modern lettering of the title is the hand of the artist, who followed its text.

The razing of the house next the First Parish Church last season, in which Dr. Swan's brother resided, brings this to mind.

I trust it may be possible to reproduce the plan in the Register as a memoir of the good physician whom Medford people dearly loved, and whose memory still lingers with the older residents of the Mystic city. Very truly yours,

Frank Woods Lovering.

A MEDFORD BUSINESS INCIDENT.

ONE hundred and fifteen years ago Medford had one thousand one hundred inhabitants, and its principal business man was Benjamin Hall. Beside being a general trader and one of the corporators of the Middlesex canal (then being built), he was the leading distiller of the famous product that came to be known as "Old Medford." He was then sixty-seven years old, and his third son, Fitch Hall, was in England on a business tour.

Among their papers, still preserved, are letters which reflect not a little of old-time history and business customs. Two of these the Register reproduces with a few comments: —

London 9th August 1797

My Dear Sir —

My last letter to you was by the *Factor* via New York, since she sail'd I have rec'd your favor of the 2d June, & am very happy

that you are continuing your experiments & that you are pleas'd with the result — I hope 'eer this you have prov'd its efficacy in Grain & that you will immediately inform me of your success, it would be best when you write to forward the letters by some passenger as they will be more secure if the French should take the vessel, which it seems they continue to do when ever they can find them we are very anxious to hear the arrival of our Commissioners in France & expect they will be able to make an amicable settlement with that Nation —

I have nothing new to write you — The Negociation at Lisle it is said is postpon'd for Ten days for to give the parties an oppertunity of consulting further with their particular Governments, & to give time for a Spanish & Dutch Commissioner to be added to them It is as much impossible to form an opinion respecting the prospect of peace here as in America —

My business remains much in the situation as when I last wrote you, the patent is nearly compleated & I am now ready to prove my assertion, but I find the distilleries are all stop'd until October as their Cisterns are above ground they do not pretend to ferment in hot weather — you cannot conceive the difficulty there is in getting a sight of their works, they are jealous of every body,

I am to be introduc'd to a Man of good Character this week whom I intend shall be interested with me, if I can make an agreement with him for I am convinc'd it will be more advantageous to me to give a person who I can depend on a concern then to manage it myself, every thing depends on the first start. I am therefore very cautious, if I can possibly get it agoing I shall do very well I am confident, my patience is almost exhausted, I am very much afraid that I shall not be able to sail for America until next Spring, until I can get my business so arrang'd as to leave it with some friend here, which is my present plan, however it is impossible for me to determine at present — I inclos'd you a plan of a new invented worm, by Mr. Atlee who is the Gen^{n} that I expect to make some experiments with — he had a patent for the improvement. I have not had an oppertunity of conversing with any distiller on its utility — I have been told that the Stills us'd here are very large, that there is one about four Miles up the River that holds Twenty Thousand Gallons, I have not seen it therefore cannot answer for the truth of the [story]

Johnny Bull is fond of telling great Stories of his Country & a proper allowance must be made for his way

M^{r} Gore & M^{r} Hall desire their best respects

Yours affectionately F HALL

In this we note the slowness of the trans-Atlantic communication in those days, and the care taken for the

carrying of letters. The French spoliation claims are foreshadowed, also something of international diplomacy, but the Medford business is the chief subject. It will be news to present Medfordites that "her spirit" was patented in England. Evidently the English distillers looked with little favor on the Yankee craftsman, who took some of their assertions with a grain of salt.

The lettered plan of John Falconer Atlee's *patent worm*, which the younger Hall sent home, is not among the papers, but its printed description covers two small pages. The letter itself was written on three pages of 7¼ x 9 inch white paper, the fourth page of the sheet being left for the addressing. This was first folded across the top and bottom of the page, then on each edge, and the closed edge inserted within the open, and secured with red sealing wax impressed with some design. It then formed a packet 3¼ x 5 inches and bore the bold, legible address,

BENJAMIN HALL ESQUIRE
MEDFORD
By The Minerva } near
Captain Turner } BOSTON

The writer has been thus minute, because in these days of postal facilities and modern stationery the old style of letter sealing (he can recall) is a lost art. After the younger Hall's return a consignment was made to the London "Man of good Character," and copy made of the letter sent in relation thereto. This was not by copying ink and press, but by writing a duplicate.

BOSTON 22d Decr 1798

DEAR SIR —

Inclosed you have bill of Lading & Invoice for Ten Hogsheads of patent spirits which is shipped on board the Ship *Galen*, Captain John Mackay to your address — This small consignment is intended as an experiment — the article will suit your market, should

it succeed, the business may be extended so as to render it an object worthy your attention —

The Rum is distilled after an improv'd manner, for which I have obtained a patent in the United States, & for which I took measures when I had the pleasure of seeing you last year in London, to obtain His Majesty' patent also — Your reputation, and the high opinion I entertain of your disposition to consult the interest of your friends has led me altho' a stranger to you in dealings to advise my Father to give you a preference to any person I know, or who has been recommended to me in London, to place this adventure under your care — being persuaded that more than ordinary pains are requisite to introduce a new article to a favorite market, & I have no doubt but that you will exert yourself to oblige me, by attracting the notice of the purchasers of Rum to this specimen which promises very fair to answer valuable purposes to the commercial world — This article bears a very high reputation in this Country & I hope will succeed so with you as to lead to future consignments.

I am with respect

Sir your Humble Servant

FITCH HALL

MEDFORD NEAR BOSTON 22d Decr 1798

Pursuant to the recommendation of my son I have consign'd to you the patent spirits specified in the inclos'd bill of Lading, & hope they will meet a good market — The neat proceeds you will plan to ship in Nails for Boston to my account, Two thirds of them to be ten penny & the other third four penny Nails

Your Humble Servant

BENJAMIN HALL

If you can conveniently ship an Iron Kettle of about One Hundred or One Hundred & Twenty Gallons suitable for melting Tallow, & the residue in nails it would be very agreeable —

Yours B HALL

We are led to query whether the ten hogsheads of "patent spirits," which according to the letter was "Rum," that "bears a high reputation in this Country," was the first exported to England.

As "every thing depends on the first start," Mr. Hall doubtless did his best to make a favorable impression on "Johnny Bull" and extend the trade.

The elder Hall's letter was short and to the point. The "neat proceeds" are today *net*, though some old-timers still use the long e in speaking.

Resolved into English nails (hand made), that consignment from and of Old Medford came back and may still linger here in the construction of some of our old houses. We may query as to which they are, and what became of the big kettle, if it came over sea. Mr. Hall bought many cattle from the New Hampshire traders. In his slaughtering business just such a kettle was needed. Perhaps it was later used in a Medford ship-yard and alluded to by Mr. Curtis in his recent paper.

IT BEAT THE DUTCH.

A letter to the editor, including one much older ending in surprise: —

MEDFORD, December 1, 1912.

DEAR MR. MANN: — Perhaps you would like the enclosed to go with the other Rum items. I copied it from a letter written by Simon Tufts at Cape Town, 20th March, 1801, to his brother-in-law, Benjamin Hall, Jr., whose wife, Lucy, was Simon Tufts' sister. Benjamin Hall was son of Benjamin Hall (whose letter I copied for you), and brother of Fitch Hall.

Very truly yours,

ELIZA M. GILL.

"It appears to me if I judge right you are not in any commercial line — and 'tho not I hope going on steady — For your Satisfaction I must report to you that some Rum from your distillery has been lik'd at the Cape by the Dutch people. It was purchas'd among the Articles of a Cargo from Boston by the House here — But very little sells as so much brandy is manufactured in this country 'tho of an inferior quality!"

Having devoted space to the municipal water-works and to the milk business, the REGISTER presents the foregoing articles in relation to another liquid business of Medford. They are of interest, and especially shows the progressive business ideas of the Medford people of a century agone.

A MEDFORD GUIDE-POST.

The reading of a paper on milestones by Mr. Read at our Historical Society suggested to one of his hearers the writing of a letter, from which we quote: —

At the corner of Main and High streets there was once a granite guide-post. On its top was a large square block of stone with the faces lettered

BOSTON 5 MILES.	LOWELL 20 MILES.

When Lowell was started, a great many tip-carts and truck of all sorts passed through the square. Because the natives were so often asked the way to *Lole* by *emigrants* on foot, John Howe, a selectman whose business was near by, insisted on lettering this post thus for their information. As very few of them could read, the guide-post was called "Howe's Folly."

The first mill employees at Lowell were from the country towns of New England; but later came the deluge.

James Ewell, who was employed on the highways many years, said that after its removal the stone post was built into a bridge over Gravelly brook, and that the heavy cap-stone lay for a time in the department yard on Swan street.

We well remember the old way-mark at the street corner, a portion painted white to receive the black letters. As we recall it, there was a lantern projected cornerwise from it over the sidewalk and lighted with gas.

Mr. Wait's letter suggests a study of the view of Medford Square shown in Brooks' history. In that steel engraving (from a daguerreotype by Wilkinson) the tall stone post is clearly shown, surmounted by another (probably of iron) bearing a lantern at its top. The lantern was nearly level with the window-sills in the town hall. This picture is of itself an interesting study, a record of conditions of sixty years ago. The classic town house, that has been styled the "Parthenon of Medford," is the central figure and stands at a higher elevation than now, evidenced by the steps on either side. It lacks, however, the stone bases of the columns, and of course the flag-staff, balcony and door in the High

street end, as also the plate-glass window that now lights the city clerk's office. Instead, in the gable there is a fan-shaped window, which was in harmony with its architecture. Six buildings (one, two and three stories) were adjoining on High street — now all gone. Next was the meeting-house of the Second Church (burned in 1860), with its columned front and storied steeple. A high fence enclosed the site of the Grand Army Hall, on which was a large spreading tree. A low barn-like structure and trees end the view on the left, while opposite, the Hall residences are shown. Two immense trees stood opposite the town house and cut off the view up the right of High street as far as the Hall houses. One tree casts its shadow clearly against the front of the old house of Dr. Tufts, then already leaning and decrepit with age. Against the dark, massive bole of the second tree stands a barber's pole, almost as high as the guide-post lantern opposite. The present three-story brick building fills the adjacent space hiding the Seccomb house (in 1870 the Simpson tavern") and the horse-chestnut tree that still remains. A stage-coach, with driver atop and trunks behind, stands before the tavern, a lady beside it evidently talking with the driver. The old town pump, which the fire engineers annually reported in working order, leans somewhat away from a horse and rider. Two canvas-covered wagons in the square, with another in the distance, pedestrians on the sidewalks, several groups of people, as well as children at play, are to be noticed. Half way from town to meeting-house was another barber's pole, and nearer, in the square, an animal that looks like *porcus*, with a dog disputing his right of way. It was no uncommon sight in the 'fifties to see a stray pig in the street, and "cattle day" (Tuesday afternoon) was each week dreaded by the women folk. Only the "end-seat hog" now goes through the present more elevated Medford Square, such in the trolley car, or perhaps in automobile, to the terror of the timid passer.

Why was the old guide-post removed?

. XVI.] [No. 2.

HISTORICAL REGISTER

APRIL, 1913

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MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

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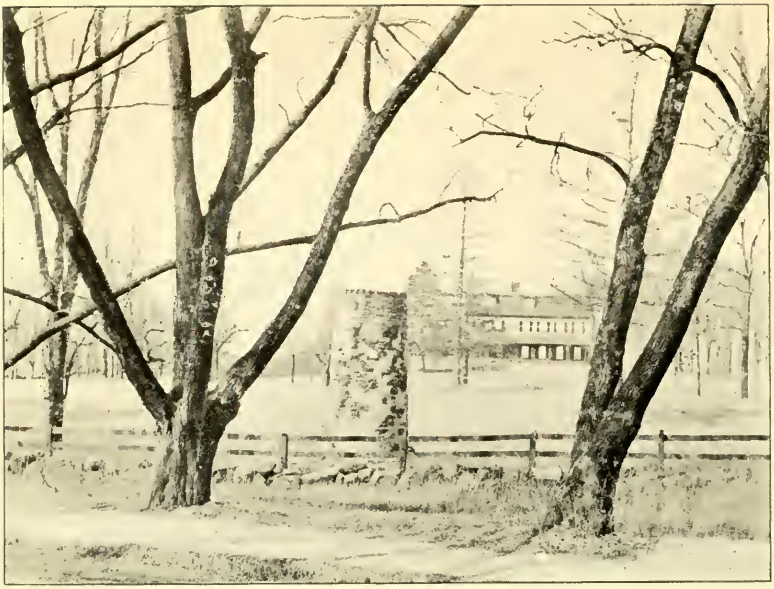
FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of_____Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.



THE STEARNS' WINDMILL TOWER.

THE MERIDIAN MONUMENT.
Built by Harvard College about 1850.

The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. XVI. APRIL, 1913. No. 2.

MEDFORD'S POSTMASTERS.

BY IRVING B. FARNUM.

[Read before the Medford Historical Society, March 18, 1912.]

THE first post-office in Medford was established in 1797 and was on the site of the present City Hall. President John Adams appointed Samuel Buel as the first postmaster in September, 1797. Mr. Buel came to Medford from Somesbury, Conn., about 1796. In addition to serving as postmaster, he filled the position of town treasurer until 1798. William Rogers succeeded Mr. Buel on July 21, 1813, serving as postmaster for fifteen years, the office being continued in its original location.

On May 17, 1828, Luther Angier was appointed postmaster, succeeding Mr. Rogers, and the office was removed to his drug store, in a building on Main street, at the rear end of Town Hall site. Mr. Angier later was in the coal business, building the first coal wharf in Medford. He later sold out the coal business to Joseph C. Chandler.

On April 6, 1839, Samuel S. Green was appointed and served as postmaster two years. At the expiration of this time Mr. Angier was given the office again, continuing the same until July 18, 1845, when he was again succeeded by Mr. Green, who served until July 30, 1847. Mr. Green conducted a dry-goods business in the building on High street now occupied by the Medford Flower Store, and the post-office was located there while he was postmaster.

Alexander Gregg was appointed to succeed Mr. Green, July 30, 1847, and removed the office into his grocery store, which was located in the Boston and Maine engine

house, on Riverside avenue. The store was in the side nearest the square, the lower half being used to house the engines.

James T. Floyd, Jr., succeeded Mr. Gregg, May 30, 1849, and the office was located in the railroad station on Main street. At that time the entrance to the station and the platform inside was on the side nearest the bridge. The post-office was in the corner nearest the square.

James C. Winneck was the next postmaster, his appointment dating from August 23, 1853. He was in the grain business, occupying a building situated on High street on the present site of the building occupied by George Nichols Company. Mr. Winneck continued postmaster until October 21, 1859, when he was succeeded by Alvah N. Cotton.

Mr. Cotton was born in Rumney, N. H., but came to Medford when a young man to work on the Adams' farm, a large tract of land on Main street including the section later known as the Mystic Trotting Park. He later learned the ship carpentry trade and worked in Medford and at the Navy Yard, Charlestown. It is interesting to note that during the winter of 1859 there was a very severe snow storm and all traffic was at a standstill. No mail could be received or despatched by train for at least forty-eight hours. Mr. Cotton, on his snowshoes, took the mail to Boston, and returning brought out the Medford mail, carrying the pouches on his back. Mr. Cotton was very active in town affairs, serving several terms as selectman and assessor, and was a member of the Social Library Committee and Town Library Committee. He continued postmaster until April 22, 1861, the post-office being located in a small building on High street, near the Savings Bank.

George Hervey followed Mr. Cotton, serving until his death, March 7, 1868. He was succeeded by his son, George C. Hervey. Mr. Hervey conducted a tailor business in the railroad building and the post-office was located in the station during Mr. Hervey's term.

John H. Eames was appointed postmaster March 17, 1870, by President Grant. Mr. Eames was a member of the Lawrence Light Guard and responded to President Lincoln's call for volunteers, April 20, 1861, serving three months. On the second call he went as sergeant of Co. C, 39th Mass. Vol., and was in many battles. Through Mr. Eames' efforts, a building for the post-office was erected on Riverside avenue by Henry W. Bigelow. During his administration Mr. Eames saw many changes in the postal service, including the introduction of the money order system and the issuing of the postal card. Letter postage was reduced from three to two cents, and the collection of paper postage from individuals was eliminated and the pound rate established. Valued as a curiosity is the clumsy hand-stamp now in a cabinet in the rooms of Post 66, G. A. R. It did service in Medford's ancient post-offices many years. Mr. Eames resigned March 8, 1886, owing to poor health, and moved to Marshfield Hills, Mass., where he continues to reside.

Frank T. Spinney succeeded Mr. Eames and served until June 16, 1897, when, owing to poor health and it becoming necessary to seek a change of climate, he resigned and removed to North Carolina. Mr. Spinney's first appointment was made by President Cleveland. Notwithstanding that he was a strong supporter of the Democratic party, Mr. Spinney was reappointed by President Harrison without any opposition. He was a very efficient postmaster and was considered one of the best informed officials on postal matters in the service. His knowledge of postal affairs was well recognized by the Department at Washington. In May, 1895, Postmaster General Wanamaker called to Washington, for conference with him, seven postmasters from various parts of the United States. Mr. Spinney was one of the seven and served as secretary of the conference. During his administration free delivery was established and the office considerably enlarged. He is now engaged in the real estate business at Pine Bluffs, North Carolina.

J. Henry Norcross was appointed postmaster June 17, 1897, and has served continuously since. Mr. Norcross came to Medford from Lexington in June, 1859, and was employed in the dry-goods store of T. W. Savage. In 1860 a fire destroyed this store and he went to Portsmouth, N. H., where he was employed for two years. He then became connected with the firm of Lewis, Coleman and Company, wholesale dry-goods merchants in Boston, and returned to Medford to live. He continued with this house for fifteen years. Later he entered the retail dry-goods business, having stores in Boston, Springfield and Manchester, N. H. He served as Representative in 1889 and 1890, being nominated by the Republicans and Democrats and received a unanimous vote each time. He has always been very active in town and city affairs, serving as town auditor and selectman, also as a member of the School Committee, Park Commission and Sinking Fund Commission. He is a director and trustee of the Medford Savings Bank, and was one of the original organizers of the Medford Co-operative Bank, serving as vice-president and president. Owing to poor health he has recently resigned the latter office and withdrawn from the active life he led for many years. Mr. Norcross is well known and highly esteemed throughout the State.

Glenwood.

The post-office at Glenwood, or East Medford, was established through the efforts of Post-office Inspector Bushard H. Camp, whose father resided on Myrtle street.

Artimus D. Bickford was the first postmaster, his appointment dating from June 5, 1872. The post-office was located in Mr. Bickford's grocery store.

On August 29, 1872, John P. Gilman, a well-known druggist in the North End, Boston, purchased the grocery store from Mr. Bickford and also succeeded him as postmaster. Mr. Gilman conducted the business and the post-office until October 6, 1873, when, owing to the death of his son, he sold out to Andrew P. Perry, and

the post-office was likewise turned over to Mr. Perry. Mr. Perry was a well-known vocal music teacher in and around Boston. Mr. Perry continued postmaster until the office was discontinued, with the exception of one year. John A. Yeaton was appointed postmaster and the office was moved across the railroad tracks to Mr. Yeaton's grocery store, but within a year's time Mr. Yeaton sold his business and the office was returned to Mr. Perry. On August 31, 1890, upon the establishment of free delivery in Medford the Glenwood post-office was discontinued and the free delivery extended to that section.

Wellington.

Mr. Charles A. Ellsworth was appointed postmaster at Wellington, July 11, 1883, when the office was first established, and continued as postmaster until 1905, when upon his resignation the office was discontinued and became part of the Medford office. The post-office was located in the Wellington railroad station, Mr. Ellsworth filling both positions of station agent and postmaster.

College Hill, or Tufts College.

The post-office was established at College Hill, March 6, 1863, and was for many years located in the railroad station. The office was practically under the jurisdiction of Tufts College, and the appointments of postmasters were made upon the recommendation of its president, and for the most part were given to students who were working their way through college.

John A. Whitney was the first postmaster and served until June 1, 1871, when he was succeeded by Benjamin T. White. Mr. White was succeeded by Fred Stark Pearson, September 23, 1881.* Mr. Pearson is well known as one of the best electrical engineers of the country. He electrified the West End Street Railway in Boston, also the Metropolitan Street Railway in New

* His mother, Mrs. Hannah A. Pearson, held the commission from the Department, as Mr. Pearson had not attained his majority at that time.

York, and had charge of installing the electric lighting system in the City of Mexico.

Mr. Pearson was followed by Julian C. Edgerly, a well-known newspaper man of Boston. Mr. Edgerly was in Jamaica during the earthquake. He now resides in Medford.

H. O. Moxon was postmaster following Mr. Edgerly, and he was followed by David T. Montague, the well-known lawyer of Boston. Mr. Montague was succeeded by John Eills, who served until January 1, 1900, when the office became a third-class office.

William H. Coffey, station agent at Tufts College railroad station was appointed postmaster by President McKinley, January 1, 1900, and continued until June 30, 1907, when the office was consolidated with Boston, and he was appointed superintendent of the Tufts College Branch. The post-office was continued at the railroad station up to Mr. Eills' term, when it was removed to a college building near its present location. When Mr. Coffey assumed charge, the office was moved to its present quarters. The name of the post-office was changed from College Hill to Tufts College about 1895.

West Medford.

This post-office was first established November 1, 1852. The first postmaster was James M. Sanford, who was station agent at the old Boston and Lowell station, and the office was located in the station.

August 9, 1853, Mr. Sanford was succeeded by Thaddeus A. Baldwin, who conducted a grocery store in the building now occupied by J. E. Ober and Son. Mr. Baldwin continued postmaster until May 3, 1859.

Franklin Patch was appointed to succeed Mr. Baldwin and held office until September 25, 1866. Mr. Patch was a carpenter, engaged in business in Boston. The office was located in a small building at the junction of Allston and Prescott street.

William C. Frederick was the next postmaster, serving

from September 26, 1866, to May 31, 1869. Mr. Frederick moved the office back to Mystic Hall Seminary Building, he having purchased the grocery business from Mr. Baldwin.

E. J. Pitcher succeeded Mr. Frederick, and the office was continued in the former location.

On May 10, 1870, Reuben Willey was appointed to succeed Mr. Pitcher and the office was removed to the Boston and Lowell Railroad station, as Mr. Willey was also station agent.

James P. Richardson was the next postmaster. His appointment dated from October 21, 1881, and the office was moved to the Usher Building, just below the railroad crossing. Mr. Richardson was in the grocery business several years at Medford, in the building now occupied by Yerxa & Yerxa, selling out to Charles Currier.

Mark M. Grimes was appointed to succeed Mr. Richardson by President Cleveland on February 14, 1894. During his term free delivery was established and arrangements were made for the removal of the office to more suitable quarters. During the incumbency of both Mr. Richardson and Mr. Grimes the office had been in the central portion of the wooden building of Mr. Usher, which building had frequently taken fire. Wishing to retain Uncle Sam as his tenant, Mr. Usher had erected the brick building in which the office is now located, and all arrangements had been made for removal by Postmaster Grimes before his successor, Grenville G. Redding, was appointed by President McKinley. Mr. Redding was in the real estate business in Boston for several years. He served as selectman and town auditor. He was also in the war in many active engagements. He began his duties as postmaster on October 23, 1899, and resigned in 1905, when the office became consolidated with the Medford office.

AS OLD RESIDENTS SAY.

Evidently Mr. Usher, from whose history of Medford Mr. Farnum secured data, omitted the name of Mr. —— Bixby, who must have succeeded Mr. Patch in the West Medford postal service.

Mr. Bixby kept a small store, groceries mainly, in a one-story building on High street, nearly opposite the Whitmore elm, as early as 1857 and while the Mystic Hall Seminary was in operation near by.

Several old residents are explicit in their testimony in relation to the office being kept in that building, and of being served by Mr. Bixby on going there for their mail, the boxes or pigeon holes being on the right of the entrance door. The sign, painted on both sides, was fastened to that corner of the building and projected toward the street.

This was in plain sight of the railway cars and the remembrance of seeing it many times in the winter of 1865-6 and the absence of mention of this location by Mr. Farnum has led to our extended inquiry relative thereto. The most definite statements point to about 1861 as Mr. Bixby's incumbency. His appointment was probably caused by the change of administration and made by President Lincoln.

MEDFORD CAPITAL IN WAR TIME.

(Found among papers of Benjamin Hall.)

SALEM July 29th 1782

This may certify that I John Savage commander of the gally called the *Willing Maid* now in Salem Bound on a Cruze against the Enemies of the for six weeks, have sold to Benjamin Hall of Medford three quarters of one full share of all Prizes goods or merchantize taken By s^d^ gally Durring Cruze for the Sume of twelve pounds . Now in me pay By the S^d^ Benj Hall the Receipt we hereby acknowledge as witness my hand and seal

in presents of JOHN SAVAGE

JON^A^ WEBB

EPH^M^ HALL

THE RIVER'S DEATH ROLL.

MEDFORD has paid her toll to Neptune as often as he has relentlessly demanded, and it has meant the sacrifice of the young and the old, the townsman and the stranger, the great and the humble. It happens whenever and wherever the spirit of human curiosity, ambition, or adventure sets itself against the strength of the god of the waters.

In the following list, compiled by Francis A. Wait, the deaths were in the Mystic river, unless otherwise noted: —

NAME	TIME	AGE
Asyeil, David	Sept. 13, 1846	18
Beard, Lewis	Found Apr. 9, 1849	38
Blanchard, Samuel	Mar. 27, 1819	8
Boffee—s, Thomas	June 4, 1785	14
Bradbury, Henry Wymond	Nov. 8, 1810	6
Brill, William S. G.	Mar. 3, 1806	10
Brooks, Samuel ("suposs'd to have been lost at Sea")	1800	
Butterfield, Isaac W.	Apr. 4, 1842	

On the second floor of a building setting back from Main street, near Cradock bridge, on the northerly corner was a Total Abstinence Club room. On the end of the building, quite near the water, were outside stairs. Butterfield, coming down these stairs, walked into the river. He was a farm hand at Peter C. Hall's, on Winthrop street. — F. A. W.

Butters, William H. ("by a fall from Mast head on board the ship *James L. Shepard*")	Dec. 3, [1844]	
Caldwell, Robert	May 16, 1810	4
Fish, Josiah (canal)	July 19, 1817	36
Floyd, Edward H.	June 27, 1827	13
Goodwin, Winthrop T.	Mar. 27, 1849	6–11–17
Hall, John	Apr. 9, 1813	
Hall, John	Nov. 8, 1818	55
Hall, Richard (shipwrecked)	Oct. 19, 1798	
Hall, Timothy	June 29, 1837	
Hardy, John	Feb. 9, 1846	39
Hatch, Reuben	Apr. 9, 1770	
Hathaway, Edward K.	July 7, 1844	5–10

Son of A. K. Hathaway, the school teacher, who lived on Ashland street. — F. A. W.

Heyward, Henry Ware	Nov. 30, 1838	6
Jacobs, Walter	July, 1822	

NAME	TIME	AGE
Jewell, Henry W.	June 1, 1847	24–6
Johnson, John	July 25, 1831	8
Keefe, Patrick (canal)	July 5, 1848	14
King, John Fobes	Oct. 10, 1835	20
Lost at sea, son of Capt. John King, who lived at the head of Stearns avenue. Capt. George King, another son, was lost at sea.—F. A. W.		
Lameul, Francis	Sept. 13, 1846	21
Learned, Thomas	Dec. 15, 1820	60
Loring, William	Sept. 5, 1840	8
Monson, Nathan	June 13, 1817	
Pratt, —— Capt.	Aug. 31, 1802	67
Ramsdill, ——	July 7, 1803	
Reed, Captain Henry	Oct. 12, 1826	43
Richards, Stephen A. (in canal)	June 13, 1842	3–6
Richardson, James	July 16, 1848	24
Richardson, John (canal)	Feb. 13, 1824	8
Robbins, James	Apr. 29, 1771	
Smith, Francis A.	July 6, 1828	27
Stearns, Daniel	July 2, 1820	18
Stetson, Frederick	Mar. 10, 1846	17–8
Lost at sea, son of Rev. Caleb Stetson —F. A. W.		
Swan, Jr., Capt. Samuel		43
"Supposed to have been lost at sea the earlier part of the year 1823. Vessel and company have never been heard of." (Was in the slave trade also supposed to have been murdered on the coast of Africa.)—F. A. W.		
Symmes, Hitty (insane, drowned herself)	July 4, 1801	23
Tufts, Hutchinson	May 22, 1817	20
Tufts, Jonathan, Jr.	Buried May 21, 1818	33
Tufts, John	June 4, 1804	8
Walker, John	June 29, 1806	35
Walker, William	Aug. 16, 1803	10
Wilbur, Roland G.	Dec. 9, 1844	1–5
Plato ("a Negro Servant of Hon. Isaac Royal, Esq.")	June 8, 1768	—
——, "A young man from Boston." "He was washing a horse"	July 31, 1799	—
Stranger	July 2, 1820	—
——, "A black woman drowned in the Canal. not of this town"	Buried Sept. 1, 1835	65
——, Male infant (canal)	May 19, 1842	

It is pathetic to read of little children dying away from home. There were three who were (probably) not children of our towns-people, as the school the child attended is stated each time. William S. G. Brill, mentioned above,

was a pupil at Dr. John Hosmer's private school, as was one whose name was not recorded who died March 3, 1806. Lousianna Galluzza, "a Native of Havanna Cuba," who died September 24, 1838, was a pupil at Mr. John Angier's school. These schools were kept in a house on Forest street, on the site of the one now standing, lately occupied by Joseph K. Manning (No. 37). The last two deaths were not by drowning.

A tragic accident which excited much sympathy in Medford was the death by drowning at Sheffield, Mass., of Gertrude and Mary Lemist, August, 1859. They were children of Mr. and Mrs. George Lemist, whose first years of married life were spent in this town,* where they were very well known, Mrs. Lemist being a daughter of Deacon Samuel Train. The family was, at that time, living in New York, and the young girls had been spending the summer months with their uncle, Dr. H. D. Train. With a companion of their own age, who was also drowned, they were bathing in the Housatonic river. It was supposed that Mary, the elder, was on the bank when she heard the cry of the others struggling in the water, and was drawn in when she tried to save her sister.

The bodies were brought to Medford and funeral services were held at their grandfather's house (161 High street). Rev. Dr. William Adams of New York mentioned the sad accident in a sermon and gave a beautiful eulogy, which was printed by permission in the *New York Observer*. In it he said, "Two of these, sisters, ten and twelve years of age, were little less to me than my own children. I had known them from their birth. Special relations had brought them into my intimacy. But recently removed to this city, they had been frequent inmates of my family, as they had been for a season members of our Sabbath School."

Dr. Adams for many years spent the summer in Medford. He was son-in-law of the elder Thatcher Magoun.

ELIZA M. GILL.

* Her father built for her the house later the home of General Lawrence.

AN OLD MEDFORD WINDMILL.

On page 52 of Vol. XIV of the REGISTER may be found the story of the brick tower standing beside College avenue, shown in our frontispiece.

The Stearns' windmill was formerly visible from distant points; but the sprouts from willow sticks set like posts along the roadside in '64 by one still living, have grown to large trees. At present only a near view may be had and the passers along the shady avenue come suddenly upon the picturesque ruin.

Nothing of military history or romantic interest like that of the old windmill Powder House, attaches to it, certainly not that recently attributed to it by an "Observant Citizen."

Our readers who noted the story in a Boston daily (Feb. 24) must have been somewhat amused at what was stated in an otherwise excellent article as sober fact.

Writing of a visit to the Stearns' residence to view the John Brown mementos, it was said: —

> "Near by can be seen the ruins of an old tower, supposed to be the entrance to an underground tunnel for fugitive slaves who were trying to escape across the Canadian border."

We are led to wonder if the "Observant Citizen" was educated in the public schools; and if so, if the present generation knows what the "underground railroad" of ante-bellum days was.

One of our townsmen has aptly said, "In this way a whole lot of fable has been taught as history."

Perhaps Medford's visitor had in some way heard of that ancient railroad, and knew not that it was the secret assistance rendered the fugitives that was so called, instead of a material subway or tunnel such as we moderns are used to, and so "supposed" he had discovered the monumental entrance thereto. But the prosy *fact* remains, that it was the old windmill tower Mr. Hooper described (as above) he saw; a silent reminder of days long gone.

THE MERIDIAN MONUMENT.

AMONG the interesting objects to be seen in the woods and fields and on the hills of Medford is the old cairn that bore the meridian mark of the observatory at Harvard College.

It was erected many years ago, but is comparatively little known, and because of its location in a sparsely settled section, and of the contour of the hill on which it stands, is rarely seen by the numerous passers. The REGISTER presents the view and preserves this account of it; all the more timely and important, as its demolition in the near future seems possible.

With one exception (the article by the present writer in the *Boston Globe* and copied by the *Medford Mercury*, to which latter, thanks are due for our illustration) no view of it is ever known to have been in public print.

This monument measures seven by thirteen feet at its base, tapering to about three and nine at its top, and about nine feet high; in form, a truncated pyramid. It is composed of quarried stone and boulders, with a single block of dressed granite at the top of the southern face. This cap-stone is smoothly dressed on its face and top side, with three circular projections of three-fourths of an inch on the former, the central one being slightly smaller than the other two. All are smoothly dressed, being formed in the cutting of the stone. Whether this stone was thus shaped for this particular use, or was one removed from some demolished building, cannot now be ascertained, but the latter seems probable, as no remains of paint can now be traced on the projecting portions. As the rough masonry is not carried up behind this granite, there may have been a similar cap-stone on the northern face, at some time removed.

Among the smaller field stones that compose its interior, is solidly embedded a stick of native red cedar, broken at the top. This may have been a flag-staff or signal pole, and its fracture must have required an enormous outlay of force — which may have caused the loos-

ening and fall of the apparently missing cap-stone. From the known durability and strength, and the present state of preservation of the enclosed stick of cedar, the breakage scarcely seems possible to have been caused by natural causes.

No inscription of any kind is upon it and nothing to indicate its purpose save the cedar stick, or possibly the projecting portions of the granite cap-stone.

To the interested observer, the loosened mortar of its joints and the weather-beaten stones plainly indicate that its builders have long since passed on, leaving its story untold or forgotten.

When after over thirty years residence in Medford the writer by accident first saw it and made inquiry, he found information not easily obtainable, as its few immediate neighbors were recent comers. Men who had been town officers and perambulators of town lines were ignorant of its existence. At last one old resident was found that thought "it was the college's north point."

Acting on this clue to the apparent mystery, the writer made inquiry of Professors Shaler and Pickering of Harvard College. Their replies were to the effect that about 1850 a stone cairn was erected as a meridian mark for the adjustment of the transit circle in the east wing of the observatory. Also that "it supported a simple board spiked to the masonry, on which was a mark that could be seen from the observatory."

The Middlesex (Southern) Registry of Deeds shows a record of conveyance of land by Benjamin F. Parker to the President and Fellows of Harvard College in August, 1847, for the named consideration of fifty dollars. The premises adjoined no street, but a right of way was conveyed, and the boundary line began at a pine sapling, extended west, north, east and south in unequal lines, enclosed a tract of some ten thousand square feet and ended at the point of beginning — at the pine sapling.

The monument served its purpose for twenty years or

more, when the instrument in the observatory was, in 1870, superseded by another and the use of the cairn as a meridian mark was discontinued.

Mr. Parker died in 1862 and was survived by his widow as late as 1896, when to her the college corporation conveyed the ground for the named consideration of ninety dollars.

No mention of the *monument* was made in the deed, unless "the rights, easements and appurtenances" of its wording covered it, and the original description of boundary was followed — the "stake and stones" at each of three corners and the "sapling pine" at point begun at.

Several pitch pine trees are now near the old cairn, probably seedlings from the one mentioned, as it is hardly probable that in 1847 that one ceased growing or was endowed with perpetual youth.

The location is (by air line) about three and three-quarters miles from the observatory. (The land was later sold by Mrs. Parker to E. S. Randall *et al.*, and still later to another.)

More recent inquiry reveals the fact that a similar monument was built southward at Jamaica Plain; also, that in 1870 a building was erected at Tufts College (probably West Hall) that obstructed the view of this northern one. In Vol. 8, *Observatory Annals*, we find that the erection of a temporary mark near this one was the cause of some anxiety to the adjoining landholder and a small sum was paid "in compensation for the anxiety occasioned by the supposed encroachment."

This may account for the larger sum named in the second deed, rather than any rise in valuation.

Evidently the three "stakes and stones" and the pine sapling were not discernible in 1870, and the observatory claimed one hundred and twenty feet (the first-named boundary) from the pine sapling, which must have been at the eastern corner near the monument which was "opposite to the Transit Circle." One hundred and twenty feet is the length of the observatory and the meridian circle is in the west wing.

The split stones that form the angles of the cairn are from the old quarries in the Fells; and some of them are of interest to geologists, "the brown diabase having streaks of white quartz running across" them.

One of these in his scientific wanderings came upon this cairn and spoke of it as "a stone tower once used as a survey signal," his judgment thus approximating to its actual use and purpose of erection. As one has remarked, "It doesn't cost much to keep a pile of rocks in repair. Why can't they let it remain?" For its use in scientific work and old-time association it is a valuable asset to any locality, especially a residential one, and its removal would be a source of regret.

WHAT MEDFORD TEACHING COST (1826).

Mrs. A. S. Brooks

To Susan Hall, Dr.

To instructing her son six weeks at 1*s* per week, From June 19, to July 29, 1826,	1.00
To working piece of trimming 17 cents,	.17
	1.17

Medford, July 29, 1826. by A. Bartlett
Rec'd payt, ʌ Susan Hall.

MEDFORD TREASURE TROVE.

By Eliza M. Gill.

On the morning of November 16, 1900, Medford awoke to the pleasurable excitement that she had again become famous; not through the renewal of any of her old time manufactures or industries, but because a fairy tale had materialized. Buried treasure had been discovered on the banks of the Mystic and the news heralded far and near.

On the preceding afternoon some boys playing in a field at the head of Spring street, were digging for the foundation of a hut. They struck a hard substance,

which in attempting to dislodge, broke under their blows. It was a pottery receptacle, (covered with a piece of canvas) and contained a hoard of silver coins. Surprised and excited the boys ran home with what they could carry, telling the story as they went.

Curious throngs soon gathered to see the place where the money had been unearthed and various were the opinions expressed as to who had placed it there, and for what purpose. The mystery has never been really solved, and each has a right to his own opinion. Several came forward with claims for it, that they thought were good and reasonable, but as possession is nine points of the law, the boys were allowed to keep what they had found, a sum amounting at the lowest estimate, to three hundred dollars.

Naturally to the mind of every one, first came the pleasing tale of Capt. Kidd and his hidden treasure. A story so alluring that today even, it sends Harvard students off on expeditions to search for his yet undiscovered wealth.

William C. Sprague (1823–1911), whose life was spent in Medford, who lived for many years in that vicinity, thought the money was placed there by Francis Shed, to hide it from his family. Mr. Shed was born in Medford, 1772, and died here 1851. He lived for a while in the so-called Cradock house.

One of our oldest citizens, now living not far from there, thinks the money belonged to Nathan Sawyer, who died in 1873. This is in line with statements by the latter's daughter, now living in the old home on Riverside avenue. Mr. Sawyer was a ship blacksmith, doing the iron work in Sprague and Foster's yard. Having lost his savings by the failure of a bank, he thereafter kept his money in jars and pitchers in a closet. The daughter remembers seeing these receptacles, and of being sent to Boston to exchange a lot of foreign coins for United States currency. Later, an illness weakened Mr. Sawyer's mind, and his distrust and uneasiness concerning money

increased. One day the family found jars and contents missing. He was never able to tell where he had hidden them, though desiring to, and called in a brother to assist in a search that was futile. The fact that he spoke of certain trees, and that the money was found near such a locality, leads many to think this the solution of the puzzle.

MEDFORD PARSONAGE AND LATER OCCUPANTS.

The gambrel roof was a feature of Colonial architecture, in favor in the first half of the eighteenth century—and now again largely used. One of its early examples in Medford was the Turell-Porter house, (See Vol. V. No. 1 REGISTER for view). Built not long after Parson Turell's settlement, (1725) it was duplicated by the Watson house (1738–1912) in its original construction. It occupied a conspicuous position at the turn of highway ere descending the hill to cross Meeting-house brook. There it faced both the road, and the sun at noon, and before it were planted the usual New England elms. It differed from the Watson house, in that there were three dormer windows in its steep roof, which also projected more over the front wall. It had the same elaborate finish around the entrance door, and substantial window frames with heavy blinds on all.

One great chimney with cavernous fireplaces was in the middle of the house, which sat low on the ground and was doubtless in early times banked in winter for warmth of cellar.

Like the Watson house, it was enlarged rearward at a later date, but with the same style of gambrel roof, with skylights and larger chimney.

Mr. Caleb Swan filed the following away at about 1856 relative thereto.

After Mr. Turell's death (1778) his house was occupied by Mr. Timothy Fitch from Nantucket, who married Mrs Plaisted a Quaker widow — he had previously owned the house of Mrs Sam[l] Swan, [Watson house] which he bought of Mrs Samuel

Angier about 1780. Mr Fitch died 28th Sept. 1790. The house was then bought of Nath[l] Gorham, (son of Judge Gorham) and sold by him to John Coffin Jones, Merchant of Boston, in Dec. 1794. Mr Jones & family pafsed his summers there till April 1805, when he sold it to Josiah Bradlee, merchant of Boston, for $5,000. — Mr Bradlee sold it to Mr John Prince, Merchant of Boston, for his Father D[r] John Prince formerly of Salem, widower — who lived there with his two daughters, Mrs Apthorp and Mifs Patty, who married Judge Hinckley of Northampton about 1811. Dr Prince married a daughter of the Hon. Richard Derby of Salem — she died before he came to Medford — The D[r] was a Royalist during the Revolution, and went to Halifax with the English army on the evacuation of Boston in 1776, He was a tall slender man, and very deaf He moved to Jamaica Plain about 1811, and his son sold the house to James Prentifs, Merchant of Boston (Bond & Prentifs, who failed in 1813, for a large amount and paid 4 cents in the dollar)

Mr Prentifs lived there one Summer and sold it to Capt. Gilchrist in 1812, who moved in, but after a month or two, Mrs Gilchrist not liking the house, went back to his former house opposite to Mr. Bigelow's, and rented the house to Capt Ebenezer Stocker of Boston (formerly of Newburyport) who lived there one or two years, until his sudden death in Havana, of fever, when his family moved into Boston

In 1813 or 1814 Capt Gilchrist sold the house to Mr William Furness, Cashier of the Union Bank, Boston. He died in April, 1836, aged 69, and the house was soon after sold to Mr Jonathan Porter, of rising reputation as a lawyer, until ill health compelled him to relinquish his profefsion

Later Mr. Swan added: —

He died 11th June 1859, aged 67. —— almost wholly confined to his house by spinal infirmity, the last 10 or 15 years. ——

Over date of Aug. 8, 1888, is added with pencil: —

House of Jonathan Porter Esq built by Rev. Mr. Turell now destroyed, the land is still owned by Miss Mary Porter daughter of Jonathan Porter.

J. G. Swan.

Since the old house was built, have come Purchase and Winthrop streets, then Porter's lane, (now Rural avenue), and now Traincroft. It is a far cry from its earliest days to the Winthrop square and the electric cars of today.

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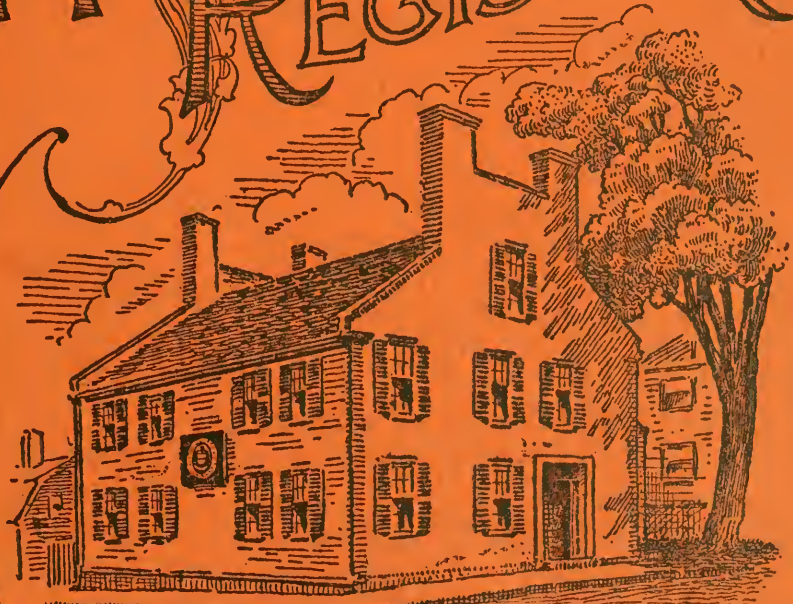

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FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of _____ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.

MEDFORD SQUARE AND SALEM STREET, 1870.

The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. XVI. JULY, 1913. No. 3.

OLD SALEM STREET.

BY HELEN TILDEN WILD.

[Read before the Medford Historical Society, January 20, 1913.]

I WAS born on Salem street, under the shadow of the Fountain House elm. Although other parts of the town were partially or altogether unknown to my childhood, from the square to Malden line was familiar country, and my special stamping ground was bounded by the Everett School and Fulton street. There will be no dates to remember in my narrative, for at the period I shall talk about (between war time and the Centennial year) the dates which interested me most were for sale at the grocers'. I may jump from the '60s to '70s with no apparent reason, and I *may* speak of things which happened before I was born.

What better place to begin our tour than the town pump at the junction of Salem and Ship streets? Of course, it has always been there (Mr. Wait has told us so), but the first time I remember it distinctly was the summer that the High School house (now the Centre School) was remodelled. I was on horseback, arrayed in a riding-skirt which was my own cherished property. As my horse was being watered, one of my primary-school mates, perched on the water-trough ready to turn an honest penny by unhitching a check-rein, called out, "Huh! Helen Wild 's got on her mother's dress." My dignity was so offended that the sally remains in my mind as the only fly in the ointment to mar a red-letter day.

The old brick block was perhaps a little less old then than it is now, but it had been known by that title for

many a day. Hemphill's meat market was where Bartlett's store is now, and later the southerly half was occupied by William P. Treet, the "button man." On the corner of Forest street was the "Cotting Bakery," which retained its name, although Mr. Timothy Cotting had removed to Forest street (next to the Universalist Church) and had given up business. The house was two story, with gambrel roof. Mr. Gibbs, the jeweller, lived there at one time. The house was taken away to make room for the Bigelow building; a portion of it was removed to Thomas court. Mr. Alexander Symmes, of Symmes' Corner stock, whose wife was Mr. Cotting's niece, lived in the first house in Cotting block. Dr. Sanborn, the dentist, lived next door. He was an up-to-date dentist for his day, but methods have changed. He administered ether to extract teeth. One experience was enough for me, and with one exception the rest of the teeth I have parted with have been taken with my full "knowledge and consent." In the corner house, next to the church, lived Dr. Woodbury, and he was succeeded by Dr. Hedenberg, who moved from the old brick block across the street.

Next was the Mystic Church, a much plainer and smaller building than now, with no steeple, but with a driveway and *porte-cochere* on the east side and horse sheds in the rear. My advent there was made on the Sunday following my father's return from the war. Mr. Hooker was the minister, and I timed the close of the service by the number of leaves in his manuscript that remained to be turned. The organ and choir were at the back of the church. Mrs. Nathaniel Ripley sang soprano; Judge Edwin Wright, tenor; Mrs. J. C. Dorr, alto; and Mr. Alfred Tufts, bass. Mr. Charles Gleason was organist. Other singers of about that time were Miss Sarah Blanchard and Mrs. William Haskins. The congregation rose and turned around during the singing of the hymns.

The pulpit was of mahogany veneer, with sofa and

chairs to match, upholstered in red velvet. A small communion table in front was shaped to fit the curve of the pulpit. The walls were frescoed, and there was a conventional dove over the pulpit. Mr. Southworth and his family sat in a side pew on the east. Mrs. Charles Cushing of Pleasant street and her son sat on the opposite side. Their pews were at right angles with the rest. On the east side I remember the Binney, Clough and Sables families. Deacon Galen James' pew and that of the minister were in the body of the house on the east side. On the other side sat Messrs. Elisha Hayden, Joseph James, Eleazer Boynton, Mr. Nahum Mitchell and the two deacons John and Jotham Stetson, with their families. In west wall pews sat Mr. John Russell, Mr. William Haskins and Captain Redman. These were all neighbors of ours in the church, for we sat in the front pew. The pews were yellow with trimmings of dark wood. The cushions were light brown or gray. Miss Abby Stetson was my first Sunday-school teacher. When she married, Miss Maria Stetson succeeded her. The infant room was where it is now, but in the main vestry, the superintendent's platform was on the west side instead of the north, as at present. There was a Bible Class in the northwest corner, taught by Dea. Jotham Stetson.

We must not tarry too long at the church, for next door is the bakery, where the horse in the treadmill in some mysterious way assisted in the manufacture of Medford crackers. Back of the house occupied by Mr. Henry Withington were the ovens where the bread, beans, crackers and other good things, buns and hermit cakes among them, were baked. To the bakehouse came the children with their tin yeast pails for "a cent's worth of yeast." My mother preferred to use a glass bottle which held three cents' worth, and I was quite a nabob (in my own estimation at least) because I bought in such wholesale quantities. How good that bakehouse smelt, especially on Sunday mornings! Many carried their pots of beans

there to be baked and had big gingham squares to tie up their smoking and savory burdens to carry them home. The brownbread was nice and warm on winter mornings as we hugged it in our little arms and hurried home to breakfast. John Burnett, Russell Symmes and Mr. Howe were our good friends, and we often indulged in a fresh doughnut or warm cracker at their invitation. Those freshly baked crackers tasted good, all delicately brown on the outside and soft and flaky inside. No wonder people came from miles around to buy them. The Withington house and the Lawrence house opposite are connected with many a good time in the memories of my childhood.

In *this* house * lived Mr. Charles P. Lauriat. Just back of it was the old brick shop where the hammers of the gold beaters resounded as those of the ship-builders in the ship-yard had rung in other days, but in war time Mr. Lauriat lived at the lower end of Salem street. How innocent his market basket looked when he started for Boston, although all of us knew what precious freight he carried.

Opposite, on the corner of River street, was the terminal of the Medford and Charlestown horse railroad. This form of rapid transit was in commission in 1863 I know, but for a time was not used; it revived and was discontinued again before street railway service came to stay. In one of these intervals the building was used by Frank Moran as a livery stable.

Beyond "Dead Man's Alley," as the irreverent called it, was "God's Acre," where now, as in days of yore, the forefathers of the hamlet sleep. The Baptist Church came next, with its high flight of outside steps leading to the auditorium, and its basement entrance to the Sunday-school room. Its outlines can still be traced, in spite of the ugly additions which have transformed it into a stable. Opposite was the Bishop mansion, which still retains its dignity of outline, and back of it was its

[* Medford Historical Rooms.]

great garden, which had been cut up into house lots and where some houses had been built.

On the corner of Oakland street was the Methodist Church, standing much below the present grade of the street, in constant danger of a drenching when Gravelly Creek became unruly. The creek was always an unknown quantity and therefore interesting. It might be a little stream just big enough to get wet in, or it might be wide and deep, overflowing its banks and flooding the roadway. In winter it was great fun to "run tittlies" on it, and a coast from the top of Ford's Hill down the steep incline across the creek (if you were lucky, and into it if you were not) had all the elements of adventurous sport. At the top of the hill was the schoolhouse (so entirely changed that it seems another building), where Edward Everett's picture occupied the place of honor in the "big room." The primary room was on the west side, the intermediate on the east, each with a separate entrance. When I arrived there, at the mature age of five years, three months, Miss Emma S. Crouch was my teacher and Miss Isabelle Perry taught the intermediate grade. In the front of the building was the door leading to the grammar department, with stairs on the left for the boys and on the right for the girls. In the upper hallway we hung our "things," and there was an air-box in the corner, the flat top of which was a catch-all for everything that didn't belong there, including ourselves, for we often made it our roosting-place.

The main room, where Mr. Sawyer presided over about sixty pupils divided into four grades, was at the south end of the building, and Miss Sawyer's recitation room was between the hallways on the north side. We sat around three sides of the room on recitation seats about as wide and comfortable as pantry shelves.

Mr. Stillman Derby, the lamplighter and janitor of the schoolhouse, lived opposite. He was no older, to my mind, when he died, many years after, than he was on the first day I went to school.

A quaint little wood-colored house, as they say in the Berkshires, was owned and occupied by Miss Rebecca Reed. It stood close to the sidewalk. The green inside blinds and the beautiful woodbine made the house different from any other. The modern three-decker which has taken its place is doubtless a more profitable investment, but when I go by I want to shut my eyes and remember its humble predecessor.

About half-way between the schoolhouse and Washington street corner lived Mr. William Hall, familiarly known as "Tinker." He was a tinsmith, and went from house to house making and mending tinware. His work was "'pon honor." Good material and good workmanship went into the construction of his wares.

The "old Methodist Church," a tenement house then as now, has changed very little in half a century.

On the corner of Cross street was Noah's Ark, in which Noah Hathaway and his wife reared *at least* nineteen children. Mrs. Hathaway never appeared outside her door-yard, but her husband was a constant attendant at the Methodist Church, where his resounding "Amens" disconcerted the stranger in pulpit or pew.

Mr. Jaquith's store, in what we now call Washington Square (the naughty boys and girls called it "Jake's"), was well patronized by the youngsters. He sold groceries, candy, gum (prohibited in my case, although I fear sometimes enjoyed), pickled limes and other things too numerous to mention, *strictly* at retail. The store was open evenings (except possibly Wednesdays) and the men of the neighborhood made it their club room, where subjects big and little were discussed.

The property next to the store building was owned by Eleazer Davis. It came to him through his wife's family, I think. He and his daughter lived in the westerly half of a low, gambrel-roofed house. The other half, owned by one Stone, was for a long time vacant. He obtained his title from James Stone, who bought the estate in 1812. Mr. John A. Smith bought of Stone and

moved into the house from the old brick block in the square. He afterward bought out the Davis heirs. The whole property was lately sold to Mr. Smith's granddaughter, making only two transfers of the property in a century.

In the "heater" corner, between Salem and Washington streets, was Mr. Sumner Jacobs' house, facing the square and shaded by a magnificent elm. There were gates and stone steps at each end of the piazza, but the north gate was never used. In order to make a straight walk from the front door the tree was sacrificed, and the view down Salem street and the house itself are forever spoiled. There was a lamp-post at the corner, and a few feet beyond, in the middle of the "square," was a cistern for storing water in case of fire, and at stated intervals the fire companies would have try-outs of the engines and hose, with great satisfaction to themselves and delight for the children of the neighborhood.

East of Mr. Jacobs' land was the "James Tufts house," so called because Mr. Tufts had lived there previous to his removal to the three-story house east of Gravelly Creek. Next was Mr. Pyam Cushing's house. He was a coal dealer, with a wharf on Ship street. To this house he brought three wives and reared three sets of children; his children by his first wife were old enough to be parents of their youngest brother. Next came our house, and next to that Grandfather Wild's house, with a gate in the fence between the two lots. Our house is almost unchanged, with the exception of raising the two ells and building a kitchen between them. My father brought my mother to this house a bride in 1843. He hired the east half from Messrs. Galen James and Nathan Sawyer at $17.50 a quarter. The kitchen had no cellar under it, and they found it so uncomfortably cold that they remained there only till January, 1845, when they removed to Washington street. In 1850 my father and Mr. J. A. Smith bought the house, my father going back to his old rooms on the east side and Mr. Smith occupying the west

side. Before 1860 Mr. Smith sold out to my father. My grandfather built his house about 1842. At that time all his children were unmarried except his oldest son.

To illustrate the village life of Medford in the '60s a description of these two estates and something about the child life of the neighborhood may be in order. None of the houses had "modern improvements," which we consider so indispensable. Between the two ells of our house was a little court which contained a well with a wooden pump and shoe. In our sink-room was a force-pump which conducted the water from the well. By connecting a pipe with this pump, water could be forced into a tin bathtub in a room overhead, in winter a chilly arrangement. There was a hogshead for rain-water at the corner of the house, and at the risk of falling in I used to climb up to see the mosquitoes hatching on its surface. Our barn was for horses, and there was ample room in the carriage shed for imaginary rides. In the loft was baled hay and a hay cutter, and it was great fun to throw down hay to Billy or Charlie, who begged for it, with just enough danger of throwing ourselves down too to make it interesting. Grandpa had cows as well as horses in his barn, also hens and chickens. The loft had lovely hay-mows, which were in turn hiding places, houses or theatres, with two pins admission to the shows. Both barns had pigstys, with sometimes the dearest little pink baby pigs. We hadn't any Board of Health, and we were sublimely indifferent to the need of one, in spite of these menaces to health as now understood.

At Mr. Howe's home, at the corner of Allen court, I spent many happy days. In the pleasant kitchen we made paper bags for use at the bakehouse. The paper was dark, yellowish brown, with flecks of straw in it. We became quite proficient in wielding the paste brush. We had a large play-room in the open attic, and often our treasures went down the cracks. I suspect that if the old house, which is now moved back on Allen court,

is ever demolished somebody will resurrect some of our playthings and present them to the Historical Society, duly inscribed.

On summer evenings all the children of the neighborhood gathered at Allen court for a game of hide-and-seek. Five, ten, fifteen, twenty — away we scurried to cover. It was fair to hide in our barn or grandpa's, down Allen and Hadley courts, and around the Fountain House in Mr. Sawyer's yard. There were some yards that I never remember of hiding in, but Uncle David Cushing on Hadley court never seemed to object, although no children belonged there, and we certainly all "belonged" to Mr. and Miss Sawyer. Such fun as there was in "running in" for the swift-footed. When twilight fell Mrs. Howe or my mother rang the bell, which was the signal that the fun was over, and with good-night calls we all started for bed.

Back of grandfather's barn was the garden, with a grape trellis in the center which arched a flower-bordered path. The vegetable garden was on each side of this path and was fenced off from the rest of the yard. The Howe house had a long garden with a summer house at the end of the central path, and there were four o'clocks and ladies' delights in the borders. There were apple trees with low boughs for climbing. We didn't need nature studies in school in those days; we studied without knowing it as we played.

The old Fountain House dated back to the early part of the eighteenth century. It was long a hostelry. I recall the names Bradshaw and Simpson, who were proprietors. Both were soldiers of the Revolution, and descendants of both live in town. We were shown the identical ring in the great tree that shadowed it to which Washington hitched his horse. My faith has wavered a little since the days of my youth. The house was three story, sloping down to a few feet from the ground at the back. It had long been a tenement in my day. Miss Mary Pratt lived in the second story on the east side.

I was sent sometimes with dainties, and the ceremony was always the same. I entered at the double green door, crept up the winding stairs, inhaling the peculiar odor of old wood and trying to tread softly (for the stairs would creak), and knocked at Miss Mary's door. Presently she let me in and seated me in a cushioned chair at the window. She went to the cupboard over the fireplace for a plate or dish, slipped what I had brought into it, and then slowly went to another part of the room to wash my mother's plate, talking to me meanwhile in her chirpy old voice.

Sometimes I wish that all these old landmarks of my youth which are running down were only pleasant memories like the Fountain House. Under the shade of our great elms, which arched the street from Washington to Fulton street, we lived friendly lives. None of us were rich; perhaps some of us were poor. In time of trouble or special happiness there was sympathy, but there was never running back and forth at inconvenient seasons, or familiarity which breeds contempt.

When my grandfather built his house in 1842 there were only two houses on that side of the street between it and the Malden line. (I am not counting two others which stood on lanes just off the highway.) One was the house of Mr. James S. Burrell, now occupied by his son, on the corner of Revere place. This house belonged long ago to William Cutter, a soldier of the Revolution, whose daughter Rebecca married Isaac Sprague of the firm of Sprague and James. But pardon me if I go back to mention Mrs. Eben Jackson, who lived on the corner of Vine street. Her lovely character endeared her to many children. She was active in the Universalist Church, and often substituted in the public schools. Just west of the Burrell lot was Aaron Child's cobbler shop, with the sign of a big, long-legged boot. I learned that "big A, little a, ron" spelled Aaron, not from my Bible, but from his sign.

On the opposite side of the street was the gambrel-roofed house lately owned by Mrs. Thomas B. Dill, and

a similar one on the other corner of Fulton street occupied and owned by Mr. Richard Tufts and his sisters. Mr. Tufts had a little wheelwright's shop back of his house facing Fulton street. The family had lived on Main street, where the Central Fire Station stands, but were burned out in the great fire of 1850 and never rebuilt.

The house at the corner of Court street is a landmark, occupied for many years by Mr. Francis Ewell. The present engine house occupies the site of the Osgood School, which was moved to Wellington. The grocery store at the corner of Park street is little changed since the days when Lewis H. Washburn was its proprietor.

Just opposite the head of Almont street, removed to build Otis street, was the most unique house in Medford, for it deliberately turned its back on the street and faced the sun. It had a lean-to on the street side and a pig-pen in full view of the passer-by. I have read about houses which were built in early times, before the general use of clocks, facing exactly south, regardless of the highway, so that the noon mark on door or window-sill told the time correctly, but this was the only one that I ever saw, and it was the only one I ever heard of in Medford. I wish somebody could "write up" that house, which was one of the first built in Medford, but in this paper it stands as the residence of Mr. William Otis, the farmer who tilled the acres of Mr. Dudley Hall's farm, and for whom Otis street was named.

Between Almont and Cherry streets were two double houses and a cottage, which are now standing. The double houses were built by Beattie & Bradlee, one for occupancy and one for tenants. Mr. Charles P. Lauriat lived in one of them before he removed to this house where we are tonight. Below Cherry street were the Ruggles house and the two cottages owned and occupied by Mr. Edwin Tainter, the expressman, and his father. Mr. Tainter's house and stable have been removed to make way for Sheridan avenue, but his daughter, Mrs. John W. Smith, occupies her grandfather's house.

There were only scrub woods, swamp and pasture land on each side of the street between the Tainter houses and Valley street. It was so lonely that we children always ran the whole distance "around the bend" and did not breathe freely until we reached the friendly neighborhood of the Mayo house, where our friend Nellie Mayo lived. She was lame, but she and her crutch were never in the rear of the rest of the boys and girls.

Then on the north side were the Parker and Tothill houses. The latter had a pretty cascade some hundred feet in height in the side yard. We made up for time gained by running "'round the bend" by loitering to watch the water-fall. Next was the priest's house; we were a little in awe of it because of the high board fence. The building is now the home of the Sisters.

The next house we always called the "old place," for in 1832 my grandfather came to Medford from Braintree to live in half of this house, his sister, Mrs. Jonathan Sawyer, being the owner and occupying the other half. She also owned the farm which lay on both sides of the street. My aunt, Mrs. Alfred Odiorne, and family lived in the west half of the house until 1867, and Mr. Francis H. Tay owned and occupied the east half. Mr. Tay's part was removed when the parkway was built. The hill which rose immediately behind the house offered all sorts of pleasures to adventurous young folks. No need of gymnasiums or "hiking" excursions for these young folks who had a forest at the back door. I remember only one house on the north side of Salem street beyond the "old place," a pretty dwelling owned by W. O. Fiske.

The two houses just west of the car barns were occupied about 1860 by my uncles, George W. and Henry M. Wild, who operated the slaughter house which stood at the end of a lane which ran between them. Before my remembrance Mr. George Wild removed to Danvers, but Mr. Henry Wild lived in the house afterward owned by Mr. Hill for some years. The Plummer brothers succeeded to the business, and later Mr. John White re-

moved from Brighton to the house nearest the car barns and was in the slaughtering business for many years.

Between Mr. White's house and the church was the hotel or road house, which was built after 1855, as it is not shown on the town map of that date. Known under several names, it had a checkered career as regards respectability.

The Roman Catholic Church, not as large as now, was known as "St. Mary's." Below the church I remember only two dwellings. That of Mr. O. M. Gale, which, with its farm buildings, stood on a lane which has since grown into Gale avenue. Mr. Gale was a familiar figure — an old man driving an old horse to and fro between his house and the square. He had two daughters who were childhood friends of my aunts. One was an actress. They both live now in Somerville and quite frequently come to Medford, for they still keep up their interest in the Universalist Church. Below the Gale lane was a double house, the owner of one side of which was a resident of Malden, the other of Medford, the town line running in those days diagonally through the house.

Salem street in the days I am talking of was not macadamized; there were no car tracks; there was no water system, therefore no street watering. On market days droves of cattle and sheep followed each other almost in procession. No wonder the housewives were slaves of the broom and the dust-cloth. (No carpet-sweepers or vacuum cleaners then!) The soft pat-pat of the sheep, the dust they raised, the bark of the sheep-dog, the calls of the drivers and the pitiful bleating of the weak ones who had fallen out of the ranks and which were packed into the wagon which always followed the drove, was of interest to us, not coupled with fear; but when a drove of *cattle* came, there was a skurrying for shelter within the yard fences and a hurried closing of the "big gate" against any possible straggler. I was so afraid of these half-wild things that to this day it takes all my courage to pass the mildest cow.

After the street was widened, and before the advent of the tracks, Salem street in winter was one round of gaiety. Sleighs were in two lines, one going east, the other west, so thick that the horses noses brushed the backs of the occupants of the sleigh in front, and "up and down the middle" the fast horses had "brushes" one with another. It was great fun to see it, but it was greater fun to be "in it."

And what better time to take leave of the old street of my childhood than this, with all its imperfections hidden under a mantle of snow, with the sun flashing on pretty turnouts, its brightness rivalled by the faces of young and old enjoying the nipping air and the musical rythm of the sleigh bells.

AN OLD SHIP-MASTER'S EXPERIENCE.

Captain Jacob H. Holmes, who resided on Cudworth street for several years after his retirement from active sea-faring life and died in 1898, had a memorable experience on his last voyage. He put into the harbor of Valparaiso, South America, with a cargo of nitrate, his vessel being the ship *Republic*, owned in Boston by Messrs. George C. and Charles Lord. (This ship was built at Newburyport, and registered 1,200 tons.) Valparaiso harbor is peculiar in that it is not safe to make fast to the stone abutments and pier, so that all vessels with cargoes are unloaded into hulks or old vessels anchored some distance out in the harbor. A northwest wind, for which this coast is famous, sprang up, and Captain Holmes' vessel, heavily loaded, was caught between two of the old hulks and his foremast and rigging, and mainmast also, were torn away, and the mizzenmast had to be cut away to save a worse disaster, The captain's wife (now living on Dudley street in this city), who was on board, was lowered over the bow into a life-boat just as this happened and taken ashore. The ship, although ruined, did not sink, and with the damaged cargo was sold.

Captain Holmes recovered his instruments and belongings, and with his wife came down the coast by steamship to Panama, thence across the isthmus to Colon, and then to Medford, where he lived until his decease. His genial good nature and ready wit and fund of "sea yarns" were appreciated by his neighbors. Mrs. Holmes traversed the sea with her husband twelve years. The "old hulk" that crashed into his vessel in Valparaiso Harbor and wrought such destruction was the ship *George Peabody*, built in Medford at the yard of James O. Curtis. It was somewhat singular that Captain Holmes should take up his residence in Medford within sight of the spot where the *Peabody* was launched.

FRED H. C. WOOLLEY.

SOUTH MEDFORD ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS AGO.

TO BE LETT,

(*And enter'd on the Fifth of* April *next*:)

A LARGE AND COMMODIOUS FARM,

pleaſantly ſituated in *Medford*, near *Boſton* (within four miles of *Charlestown* Ferry) containing Three Hundred Acres of choice Land, accommodated with a good Dwelling-Houſe, a Dairy, two large Barns, a Cow-Barn, and an Engine for ſcrewing of Hay; alſo a Canal lately cut from *Medford* River, wherein a Lighter may come up within a Few Rods of the Houſe, which is very convenient for bringing up Muck, or any Thing elſe either for the Uſe of the Farm or the Family. The ſaid Farm is all well fenc'd in with Stone-Wall, and is properly divided into Paſturage, Tillage, Orchard and Mowing-Land, produces plenty of the beſt Engliſh Hay, Salt-Hay, and Black-Graſs, ſo called, (which laſt is eſteemed very little

inferior to Engliſh Hay) and is capable of keeping a large Stock of Cattle and Sheep thro' the Year. There is now ſeven or 8 Acres of the Tillage Land ſown with good Winter Rye. Any perſon inclining to Hire the above Premises, who can bring on a ſufficient ſtock, and give good Security for the Performance of Leaſe, may have it on reaſonable Terms for a Number of Years. For further Particulars enquire of ISAAC ROYALL, Eſq'r at *Medford*

☞ *There has been no more than Two Tenants on the above Farm for 35 Years laſt paſt.*

From *Boston News Letter* and *New England Chronicle*, Thursday, March 17, 1763.

The farm referred to in the above advertisement is the easterly portion of the Royall estate, the westerly boundary being at or near the line of Two-Penny Brook, the northerly boundary is the Mystic River, the easterly and southerly bounds being the line between the cities of Medford and Somerville. The dwelling-house stood where the Mystic House formerly stood, and it was removed (to make way for that house) to the brick-yard on Buzzell's lane, and was destroyed by fire years ago. The barns stood on the westerly side of what is now known as Golden avenue, and the canal referred to is that portion of Two-Penny Brook that extended from the river to a point on the southerly side of Mystic avenue, where it met the solid ground, the landing-place of the lighters above referred to. The brook was probably straightened, widened and deepened. There was formerly a wharf on the easterly side of the brook or canal, about half-way between the river and avenue, at which small vessels used to discharge cargoes of firewood for the use of the brick yard on Buzzell's lane. The Middlesex Canal afterwards ran through the farm, and the Southern Division of the Boston and Maine Railroad is located across it.

JOHN H. HOOPER.

Did the REGISTER's space permit, it would be interesting to review in detail the various enterprises and industries that have found place within the limits of the farm advertised a century and a half ago; the South Medford of today.

It was once invaded by the British, when they marched from their landing place on the river bank to the old powder house and back again with their plunder, minus the Medford portion, however.

A little later the presence of some British horsemen on the hill sent Revere through it, instead of on the direct route to Lexington.

Next the New Hampshire troops crossed and recrossed it to and from Bunker Hill.

Two years later the Hessian prisoners here ended their long march from Saratoga and encamped on the upland corner of the farm.

Then came the time and arts of peace. Forty years after the advertising (and we may not know how many tenants in *those* years) the Middlesex Canal was dug through its eastern border. Soon after, the Medford turnpike crossed the marsh beside the canal.

Then after three decades came the railroad through the southern corner, and for many years beside the railroad and on the extreme edge of the farm was the Medford cattle market.

In the middle sixties there was a half-mile race track between the railroad and the site of the present Lincoln school, which track was soon displaced by the extensive works of the Massachusetts Brick Company. Traces of these latter may still be seen, near and parallel with the railway.

The Mystic Trotting Park with its mile-track was located between the Mystic House (built in '46) and the turnpike. Its location was then known as the Adams farm, and early in war time a military camp was there. Several times the "New England Fair" or cattle-show was held there; and for years the numerous horse races

drew vast crowds of the sporting fraternity. In more recent years its neighbor, Combination Park, with more pretentious structures, flourished for a time; its grand stand at last destroyed by fire.

The more useful and legitimate business of brick-making was done beside Winter brook for some years, and now on the other side Tufts park and playground have redeemed an unsightly bog.

Through this section in '64 were laid the supply mains of the Charlestown water works, leading from the reservoir on College hill; and later the Tufts school-house was built over them. Winter brook (now insignificant) once supplemented the power of the tide mill on the turnpike, but, with Two-Penny brook, had to be reckoned with in the construction of highway, canal and pike.

For more than a century the dwellers on this farm of Colonel Royall's were few. In 1870 a few dwellings were built, the result of a "land scheme," but the increase was very slow until after the closing of the race tracks. The construction of the Lincoln school-house and its enlargement in more recent years is an index to the increase in population, while the erection of dwellings, stores and churches, the establishment of a fire station and the opening of numerous streets, is in marked contrast to the times of Colonel Royall.

Westward across Two-Penny brook various brick makers plied their trade. This industry has vanished, leaving a huge pit extending to the willow-shaded College avenue, the border of which is being filled with ashes and refuse by the city. But nearer the brook is one always filled with water (perhaps supplied by springs) which has been used as an ice pond. In view of the rapid increase of dwellings in the vicinity it would seem that here is an opportunity for Medford to secure a park site, of which she has none too many. A park there would enhance the desirability of the place for residence and add to the beauty and attractivess of the city. A similar improvement might at little cost well be made along the brook from Main street to Mystic avenue.

Colonel Royall's old canal, "where muck and anything else" could be conveyed, is still to be seen. Restored to its original form, or enlarged, it might well serve as a public landing for motor boats. Here, too, on the river bank might be erected a public bath-house.

These things, comparatively inexpensive, would be a vast improvement upon the existing unsanitary conditions (an increasing menace to the public welfare), and affect for good many people that the present proposed monument to "civic pride" will benefit but little.

M. W. M.

MEDFORD MEMORIALS.

Of Medford ship-building it might be said the days of its years were threescore years and ten, 1803–1873.

On December 4, 1873, was launched the last ship built on the banks of the Mystic. She was named the *Pilgrim*, and built by Joshua T. Foster for Henry Hastings, by courtesy styled Commodore.

It was the lot of a Medford school-boy to be present on that occasion and to receive indelible impressions on an artistic temperament just then beginning to develop.

After the lapse of forty years, with increased skill, and with kindly remembrance of his boyhood home and haunts, Mr. Fred. H. C. Woolley has reproduced the scene which closed the great industry of former days. We are by his courtesy allowed to reproduce in this issue a copy of his water-color, which he exhibited to an interested company in the Historical Society's rooms on Saturday evening, May 3, 1913.

Mr. Woolley described the launching (unsuccessful on the day set, but carried out on the next), and gave a brief account of the *Pilgrim's* career. She sailed from Boston for Hong-Kong, commanded by Capt. Frank Fowle, on February 14, 1874, taking out a cargo of ice, and made the voyage in one hundred and twenty-four days. For several years she was in the East Indian trade.

In 1890 she was barque rigged and sold to Daniel Bacon of New York. In 1892, under the command of

one supposed to be an efficient navigator, she was wrecked on one of the Bahama Islands while on a voyage from Philadelphia to Cienfuegos, Cuba. Her cargo of coal and the vessel were a total loss, but the captain and crew escaped.

It seems somewhat remarkable that of all the Medford-built vessels (numbering about six hundred) not one is now known to be in service; and of the buildings in the many ship-yards but one remains in any form as a relic of an industry once so thriving.

A photographic copy of Mr. Woolley's picture of the *Pilgrim* has been purchased by Mr. Henry Hastings and hung in the "Henry Hastings Room" (commemorative of his father) in the Old State House in Boston. Mr. Hastings takes an especial pride in keeping this room thoroughly furnished with whatever he can find of models, pictures, plans and interesting mementos of his father's ships.

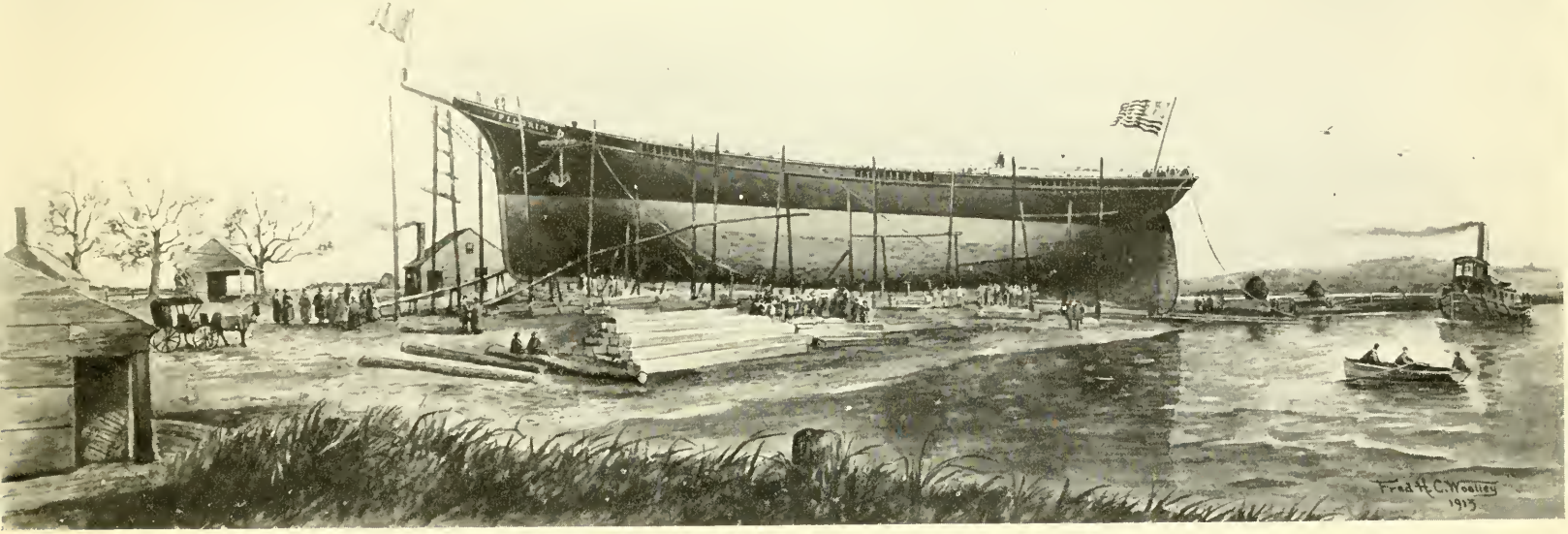
One material relic of those busy days is Medford's only school-bell (that in the tower of the Curtis school), donated the town by James O. Curtis, in whose ship-yard it formerly did service. There it rang at the opening and closing hours of daily labor. Very few are living of the many who assembled at the call of the "Old Bug-horn." Is there anyone in Medford or elsewhere who can tell how the ship-yard bell acquired that name?

THE MEDFORD GRASSHOPPER.

A SMALL record book of fifty-four pages, seven by eight inches in size, was recently placed with others in the hand of the editor with the remark, "Perhaps there is something of interest for the REGISTER."

Its leather binding and board covers are still strong, and the unruled paper, little colored, is both strong in texture and *odor* of days long gone, for the earliest date is "Monday, the 4th day of January, 1808."

On its first pages is written, in elegant penmanship:—



THE SHIP "PILGRIM,"—READY FOR LAUNCHING, AT FOSTER'S YARD, MEDFORD, MASS., DECEMBER 4, 1873.

Last of all the Medford-built Ships. Built for Henry Hastings.

Length, 173 ft.; Beam, 35 ft.; Depth, 21 ft.; Tonnage, 956.86 register.

From a Water-color Painting by Fred H. C. Woolley.

We the subscribers being appointed by the Selectmen of the Town of Medford for Engine men do subject ourselves to the following regulations 1st To assemble on the first Monday in every month from April to November including both months for the purpose of examining the state of the engine And if any member neglects to attend at the time and place appointed or does not appear before the clerk has put up his list he shall pay the sum of fifty cents for the good of s[d] company unless he be excused by a vote of the company

2d No person shall be a member under the age of twenty-one years

3d No person shall be voted into said company only by ballot

4th If any member unnecesarily neglects to attend at the Annual meeting in November he shall be held

[End of first page.] Turn over.

to pay his proportionate part of the expenses of the evening or such a part as shall not be abated by a vote of the company

5th Any member that shall be absent shall pay his fine at the next meeting after trial.

6th If the clark shall be absent at any meeting appointed by the company it shall be his duty to give the list to some one of the company who shall act in his stead. . . .

7th There shall be three members drawn from the company in rotation until every man has served for one year whose duty it shall be to see that the engine is in compleat order the Day after being called out at any time for fire or otherwise and if they neglect to do the same they shall for each neglect pay the fine of seventy-five Cents. . . .

8th Every member shall repair directly to the Engine House on hearing the cry of fire

Then followed the signatures of

Zaccheus Wyman
Jonathan Brooks
Isaac Brooks
James T Floyd
Patrick Roach
Leonard Bucknam
John Symmes 3d
Joseph Bucknam
Samuel Teel Jun
John Dickson
Joseph Wyman Jr
Daniel Wier
W[m] Harris
Isaac Floyd

[On same page, in same expert hand as before]

At a meeting appointed by the company and held at the house of M[r] J. Johnson on Monday the fourth day of Jan[y] 1808 . . .

Voted that Zaccheus Wyman be Master of the engine and James T Floyd Clerk to s[d] Company for the year ensuing. Also voted to

meet the first Monday in April at Half past five oClock P.M. at the engine house

At the bottom of the page, in the handwriting of the "Clark" is

	cents
Isaac Floyd fined	50
Wm Harris Do	50

Six records of monthly meetings are upon the next page, each being a vote to meet the next month at the "enjoine house."

On July 4 it was voted to

Heve the fines remain due till November meeting

At the October meeting it was

Voted to agree with Samuel Teel Jr to cleane the enjoine for one dollar and fivety cents Also voted to meet at the enjoine house the first Monday in November at four O Clock P M Also chose a cmmitty to prevoid the super

Commity { Samuel Teel Jr, Patrick Roach, John Dixan

The vote at the November meeting fixed the next in January

At Josiah Johnson Innholder at 6 O Clock P M for the porpose of chusing Officers for the year ensueing

Two dollars in the fines

At that meeting the officers were re-elected and the next meeting fixed for April. In April (after a winter vacation) Seth Wyman was voted into the company, and Patrick Roach fined fifty cents.

The record of the October, 1809, meeting is significant:

At a legal meeting on the first Monday in October then Voted to agree with Mr. Samuel Teel and John Dickson to Clean the Engine to the Satisfaction of the Company for one dollar and fifty Cents Also Chose Joseph Bucknam and Joseph Wyman to be a Committy to provide a Supper Also Voted to meet the first Monday in November at 7 O Clock P M at the Engine house Also Voted that any that be absent from the Supper Shall pay his part of the Supper and pay fine besides

This "enjoine" was the Old Grasshopper, the first

bought by the town in accordance with its vote of March 7, 1763. After it had seen over thirty years of service, and housed near the market-place, it was located near Hastings lane at the top of Marm Simonds' hill. That any enginemen or company were then appointed to care for it, records fail to show. Probably it was simply housed there during a dozen years. In the record of October, 1816, it was styled the Western Engine, and in January, 1826, the No. 2 Engine. After the earlier years, at the November meeting, some one was appointed to keep the snow from the doors at a stipend of fifty cents for the season and under the penalty of one dollar for neglect.

The company's hours of meeting varied from two o'clock in November to seven in June, and no meetings were held in December, February or March. Various members were "drawn" to see that the "engine is in perfect order after being called out to a fier." Absentees' names were recorded and such were fined for the "good of the company."

The meeting for "chusing officers" was in January, usually at the tavern, and during these twenty years of record Medford had quite a number of innholders, whose names appear. One thing they never failed to do at the October meeting — the committee to provide the supper in November was named. But one record of a supper partaken of is given. Sewell Pierce, Amos Butters and Varnum Pratt were the committee.

November 6th AD 1826 No two Engine Company tuck Supper at W. Westons Tavern in Woburn and thare voted to meat at Wyman & Dexters Tarven in Medford at half past six P.M. Absent at Supper Oliver Wyman and Daniel Simons two members of the Company.

December 18th Ingine No 2 Cald out to a fire Absent Sewell Pierce Thomas Huffmaster Oliver A. Floid Cleon G. Town Frederic A. Kendall

After sixty-five years of service the old "Grasshopper," must have begun to show signs of decrepitude. So the record of January 27, 1828, is pertinent —

Voted that unless the town provide a new Engine we disband ourselves, also voted that James T Floyd Jr F A Kendall & Edward L. Staniels be a committee to communicate the same to the Selectmen & request them to lay the same before the town at the next march meeting.

The next entry is ominous —

The firft Monday in April 1823 no meeting

Reference to the town-meeting records shows that after discussion at several meetings, on April 6, 1829, it was voted "to purchase a new engine for the west part of the town," and the committee for that purpose, Samuel Train, John Bishop, Leonard Bucknam, were directed to dispose of the old engine.

The new engine was called Extinguisher No. 2, and in 1837 received name of General Jackson, in honor of the President. There is no reference to the new one in the old record book, and the last entry is —

Medford January the fifth 1830
Paid to Edward S Staniels forty five cents for services

This was according to vote of previous year and the only record we notice of such payment, and follows —

Sewell Pierce agrees to keep the snow from the engine house doors till the first of April for ten cents.

The old Grasshopper went to Upper Medford (Symmes' Corner) for a time, the people there relieving the town of any expense, and lastly was housed in the hearse house at Salem Street Cemetery and finally (see Mr. Hooper's history) sold for twenty dollars when eighty-five years old.

During the writing of this article the motor-driven combination chemical engine of West Medford, returning to its quarters, has passed the writer's open window. It is a far cry from that to the old Grasshopper, which "looked like a tub on a hand-cart," but not much farther than from the old hose carriage the engineers furnished West Medford in 1871.

. XVI.] [No. 4.

HISTORICAL REGISTER

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MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

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MEDFORD HISTORICAL REGISTER.

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FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of _____ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.

OLD RAILROAD GRADE.

THROUGH SUGAR-LOAF HILL.

The Medford Historical Register.

Vol. XVI. OCTOBER, 1913. No. 4.

VOLUME II OF MEDFORD RECORDS.

By Allston P. Joyce, City Clerk.

[Read before the Medford Historical Society, February 17, 1913.]

AT a meeting of the Medford Historical Society, held in the spring of 1905, I had the honor of reading a paper, descriptive of the *first* book of the town records, the same being later published in the Register. In that paper I stated that I was firmly convinced that we have now all the records of the Town of Medford that ever existed (Mr. Brooks and Mr. Usher to the contrary notwithstanding), and gave my reasons for this belief. I find my contention ably seconded in the excellent article of Mr. Hooper, in which he says, "The loss of early town records, so often lamented, may be largely due to the fact that they never existed," and this may well apply to the statement so often made relative to our own.

Tonight I propose to talk about the second volume of our records, which covers the period from February 12, 1718, to June 23, 1735. This is of different dimensions from the first, being $12\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide, and contains 374 pages. The paper is of the quality made two hundred years ago, substantial and strong, but roughly finished and evidently destitute of any wood pulp. The ink used by the town clerks in writing the records was of a permanent character and would satisfy the present law relative to ink for official records. The entries are as clear and readable as if made within a day. When I say *readable*, I mean they are so by any familiar with the writing and spelling of our ancestors, which in many respects was "fearfully and wonderfully made." The records of the first year were by Thomas Tufts, and when

compared with those of some of his successors, seem to show that his education was far superior to theirs. There are very few errors in spelling, and in this respect he equalled some of our perhaps better educated clerks of the present day. William Willis succeeded him for two years, followed by Benjamin Willis, who was clerk from 1721 to 1726, when William Willis again filled the position for two years. Ebenezer Brooks, Jr., was elected in 1728, and at the March meeting of 1729 was re-elected. There arose a dispute as to the legality of this meeting, and a petition was presented to the General Court by the disaffected ones, which was favorably considered, as appears by the record, a portion of which is as follows:—

In the House of Representatives: April 18th: 1729:

Read and ordered That the prayer of this petition be ſo far Granted as that the Whole of the proceedings of Each Party att the Town Meeting held at Medford on the third Day of March Laſt be and hereby is Superseded and Declared Null Null and Voide and of no force and that Richard Waite late Counſtable of Medford be and hereby is Ordered and Directed forth with to Notifie and Warn the freeholders and Other Inhabitants of Said Town that they Aſſemble and Convene on Munday the Twenty Eighte day of April Corrant at teen of the Clock in the forenoon then and there to Elect and Choose Town Officers for the year Enſuing in and no person but what has been ratted one ſhilling at Least to the Last Province Tax More then The Poole Tax Laid in Said Town Shall be Admitted to Vote in Said Meeting and that the Aſſeſsors that Laid ſaid Tax be directed to Lay the Towns Raite Bill, or Liſt of the Laſt year Before them for the Regulating of the Said Meeting

Then follows the form directing the constable to make a return of his doings on the order, the whole being signed by "William Dudley, Speaker, Joſiah Willard, Sectry." Apparently they had political troubles "in the good Old Colony Times when we lived under the King."

The result of this meeting was the election, among other officers, of Benjamin Willis as town clerk, and it is his writing that appears in the remainder of the book. More than half of the pages of the book are used in the lists of the taxes levied for various purposes. It was the custom whenever a town meeting was held and money

appropriated for any purpose, to order a tax levied to meet the same. If the minister's salary had to be provided, each person was assessed his relative share. If a school was to be kept, the expense must immediately be raised by a tax. So we find separate lists in the same year providing for a "Province Tax," a "Town Rate" (levied semi-annually), a "County Rate," a rate for the "Town Stock of ammunition," a rate for money for a school, and a rate for the minister's salary every six months, making eight tax bills per year. It occurred to me, as I was looking over these lists, that if this custom should now prevail there might be more difficulty in collecting taxes even than there is now. These lists are divided into two and frequently three columns, at the top of which is written "Heads," "Real," "Personal Estate," and the amounts are entered in pounds, shillings and pence. The first list in the book contains eighty-six names and the last one one hundred and eighteen names, an increase of over thirty-seven per cent. in eighteen years. This, of course, practically shows the percentage of increase in the population during the same time. This book, as also the one preceding and the one immediately following, in which are entered similar lists of those assessed for taxes covering the years from 1673 to 1781, inclusive, and containing thousands of names, have all been completely indexed by the card system, giving a reference to every name and to every place which appears in either volume. These lists, you can readily see, practically give a census of the adult male inhabitants during those years. Scattered through the book are entries of the finding of stray cattle of all kinds, which the law required should be recorded in the town records and a description of the animal found, entered therein. Some are quite interesting, as will be seen in the following: —

DECEM^{R} 1th 1719

Taken up A Stray by Thomas Willis Jun^{r} of Medford A Dark Brown heifer Adjudged to be about Two Years Olde with some

White on her taile & under her Belly & A piece Cutt of her Right Eare with a Slit & fork In ye Same Where the Owner paying Reafonable Charges May have his Owne Againe

August 13th 1734

Taken up in Damage fefant and Strayd a Brown Cow Judged to be about 7 years old her Naturall mars are a White Spot behind Each Ear —— her Artifitiall mark is a Swallow Tayle in ye Near Ear & a Slit in ye off Ear

Taken up in Dammage fefant by Stephen Larrebe of Medford Five Swine on ye 19th of this Inftant & made Strays ye Difcription whereof is as followeth (viz) one Learge Sow, Sandy & Spoted with Black & with her Three Piggs or Smale fhoats Adjudged to be about Foure or five Months Olde One of them a Boare moftly white Somthing Sandy toward ye Head & one Barrow Shoat which is chiefly Sandy ye Other a Sow Pigg which is all white Except a Blak Spot on her Side And alfo one Learge Barrow white & Spoted with Black. thefe are ye marks Given in ye Notifications of sd Swine.

The law relative to such matters is still on the statute books, being first enacted in 1698.

Some of the town meeting warrants are curious, and those for the collection of taxes equally so. One of the latter reads as follows: —

To the Constable of ye Town of Medford *Greeting*

In his Majests Name you are Required to levy & Collect of ye Seveall Perfsons Named in ye Lift herewith Commited unto you Each one his Refpective proportion therein Sett Down of ye Sume Total of Such Lift Being A Tax or Afsefsment Grant-ed and Agreed upon by ye Inhabitants of ye sd Town of Medford Regulerly Afsefed for ye Nefsefsary Charges Arifing within the sd Town and to Deliver and pay in ye Sum of Thirty Pounds which you Shall So Levy & Collect unto Dean John Whitmore Treafurer of Sd Town who is Apointed to Receive the Same And to Compleat and make up accounts of your Collections of the whole Sume att upon or before the Lafst Day of June next Enfuing and if Any perfon or perfons Shall Refufe or neglect to mak payment of ye Sume or Sumes whereat he or they are refpectively Afsefsed and Sett in the Sd Lift To Diftraine ye Goods or Chattles of such perfon or perfons to ye Value thereof and the Diftrefs or Diftrefses So Taken you are to Keep by ye Space of four Days att the Coaft and charge of ye owner & if ye owner Do not pay ye Sumes or Sumes of money So Afsefsed with ye said four Days Then ye sd Difstrefs or Difstrefses So taken you are to Expofe and openly Sell At an out crie for ye payment of said Money and Charges Notice of Such Being Pofted up in Some

Publick place within y^e^ Same Town Twenty four hours before hand and the overplufs Coming by s^d^ Saile if any befide the Sume or Sumes of y^e^ Afsefsment & Charges of Taking and Keeping of the Difstrefs or Difstrefses to be Immediately Reftored to y^e^ owner And for want of Goods or Chatles whereon to make Difstrefs you are to Seize y^e^ Body or Bodys of y^e^ perfon or perfons so Refufing and him or them Commit unto the Common Goale of ye said Count^e^ ther to remaine untill he or they pay and Satisfie y^e^ Several Sumes or Sumes wherat they are Refpectively Afsefsed as aforesaid unlefs upon Aplication made To the Court of y^e^ Generall Sefsions of y^e^ Peace the sume or any part thereof fhall be abated —

The first record in the book is the warrant issued February 12, 1718, calling the annual March meeting for the election of town officers and the transaction of certain other business, a part of which was "to consider what may be done to defend the Town from charge by strangers coming in." This warrant is followed by the record of the meeting, in which is entered the following: —

Medford March y^e^ 3^d^ 1718

To the Selectmen and Clerk of the Town of Medford.

Gent^men^

our desire and Petition to you is that our Town Meeting may be regulated according to Law, for we know that those men that made the law were wifer than we are and there-fore we the Subscribers will by no means be the Breakers of the same and therefore if our Town meeting be not regulated according to law, we must enter this diffent against it.

Thomas Willis sen^r^	Jonathan Hall
Eben^r^ Brooks	Percivall Hall
Peter Tufts	Francis Whitmore
John Whitmore	Thomas Hall
Sam^ll^ Brooks	John Whitmore
Stephen Hall	Isaac Farewell

Medford March y^e^ 3 1718

In Answer to the desire and Request of some of our Inhabitants that our Town Meeting may be regulated according to law we the Subscribers Have openly declared at sd meeting, that those of our Inhabitants and only those, that are worth or have in pofsefsion to the Value of Twenty Pounds Ratable Estate may Vote at sd meeting.

Sam^ll^ Wade
John Bradshaw } Selectmen
Step^n^ Willis

In the record of this meeting, as also in the warrant calling it, every word is spelled correctly, although capitals are used indiscriminately.

Notwithstanding the report of the selectmen relative to who should have a right to vote in town meetings, as I have read to you, another meeting was called for March 24th, at which the question of the qualification of voters was referred to Mr. Remington and Major Bond for their opinion, they to report at a meeting to be called in May. The meeting was called and evidently they reported, as there was a vote of thanks passed for them at that meeting, but I find nothing in the record to tell what the opinion was.

Town meetings, as you all probably know, were held in the meeting-house, and so continued to be until the formation of the second church in 1824, by which action the church and town became two distinct organizations and the affairs of the church were no longer regulated in town meetings. They were always called "in His Majesty's name," and this custom pertained until the Declaration of Independence in 1776, from which time, until the adoption of our constitution, they were called in the name of the people, and since then in the name of the Commonwealth.

At the meeting of March 24th it was voted that those officers chosen at the annual meeting who had not been "sworn" should be dropped and no record made of the election, and new ones elected. It was a common custom, after the election of selectmen or assessors, to vote to add to the number from one to three more, also to vote each year whether or not to choose a representative to the General Court, and frequently the vote was not to do so. Evidently competition for this office was not as great as it is at the present day. Among the most important offices were those of constable (to which position, if a man was elected, he was obliged to serve or pay an amount to be excused *); tithing-man (whose duty it was

* At March meeting, 1733, Andrew Hall chosen constable and paid £5 to be excused from serving.

to keep order in the church and not allow any one to snore loud enough to disturb the meeting); and hog-reeve, who had charge of the hogs that ran at large to see that they did not trespass or do damage, and to yoke, or ring them through the nose to prevent it.

But I am straying away from the subject a little — that is, telling you what is in Volume II of our records.

On August 18, 1718, it was voted that "every Inhabtant of this Town shall whe[n] they buy any Se[r]vant Male or Female Be obleiged to acquaint and inform the Select men of s[d] Town for their approbation." I think this is the first reference to slavery in the records.

On February 9, 1719, the question of a new meeting-house was raised, and voted not to build one.

On July 20, 1719, education seems to have been called to their attention, as it was voted that "the town will have some meet person to keep a writing school in the town for three or four month in y[e] winter season." This was done at a town meeting especially called for this purpose and no other action was taken except to appoint a committee to "Treet with Some meet perſone or perſons to Keep A *writing* School in the Town as afore-mentioned." On November 30th the house of Thomas Willis, Jr., was selected as the place where the school should be kept, and on December 11th voted to employ "Mr. Henery Daviſon . . . to Keep A School In Said Town for One q[r] of A Year Next Enſuing," and to allow him "y[e] Sume of Three Pound Money for Keepin School the Time above s[d] and alſo To Diet him for y[e] time above Said." A committee was appointed to collect by subscription eight pounds for defraying the charges of the school, and in case it could not be so raised to levy a tax on the inhabitants for it. At this time it was also voted that it should be a "writing and A *Reading* School." This was the first public school kept in Medford. In 1647 the General Court had passed an act making it obligatory on towns of fifty families to keep reading and writing schools and towns of one hundred families to have grammar schools.

Evidently Medford had not reached the size demanded by the first requirement until this period. Prior to this time the children obtained what education they received in the neighboring towns where schools existed, or were taught privately. On February 22, 1720, a vote was passed to appoint a committee to "choose a convenient place for setting a schoolhouse" to best accommodate the whole town and report at the March meeting. This committee was appointed, but there is no record of any report from it. The next reference to a school-house is at the meeting of October 5, 1730, when it was again voted to appoint a committee to select a location and report the proper dimensions. On October 19th the committee reported

"That it would be Proper for The Town To Build Their Scoole-Houfe Twenty fouer feet Long & 20 feet wide & Ten feet Stud & The Place The were of oppinion To Build was on The Town Land by The Meeting House Joyning Near Ebenefer Brooks Jurs land."

This report was accepted and the meeting promptly refused to appropriate any money to construct the building — £80 being desired for the purpose. Compare $400 for the erection of the first school-house with the cost of one today. The school-house, however, was finally built as recommended on what is now High street, on the southerly side, next easterly of Meeting House Brook. This building supplied the wants of the town for educational purposes for over forty years. By vote of town meeting, in December, 1720, two schools were to be established during the coming winter, one in the easterly and one in the westerly part of the town, and on December 26th the committee appointed to arrange for the same reported that Caleb Brooks had been engaged to keep a writing school in the west end for three months at forty shillings per month, and Henry Davison for the easterly part of the town for three months for four pounds and what he could obtain from the scholars. The vote to establish a school during the winter months became an annual custom, but some peculiarities of different years are noted. In 1722 it was voted that persons who send

their children to school shall pay the town three pence per week per scholar, and on December 9, 1725, it was voted to have a reading, writing and ciphering school for three months.

A large part of the business at the town meetings was the consideration of matters pertaining to the meeting house. On March 7, 1720, it was voted to select five gentlemen in some of the neighboring towns to decide whether to build a new meeting house or enlarge the old one and to stand by their decision. How well they kept their agreement to stand by the decision of these men is shown in that on May 19th following it was voted not to raise any money for a new meeting house, and on February 20, 1721, it was voted not to "except of y^e^ Refult of y^e^ Comt^e^ Refering to a meeting houfe for Medford as A perfect Result According To y^e^ Votes of y^e^ Town." This action did not suit some of those interested, as twenty of the apparently most prominent citizens entered their "Decent againft y^e^ Towns proceedings In y^e^ above writen Vote for y^e^ following Reafons (To Wit)." Then follow four reasons stating that the town voted to abide by the report of the committee selected, that the committee met and declared its decision, that by the result of the report and vote relative to it, the inhabitants were obliged to procure land for the erection of a new meeting house, and in accordance with such result the committee had procured land at their own cost, "and for thefe & y^e^ like Reafons we Ent^r^ against s^d^ Vote as being Illeagall and unjuft."

This protest did not seem to have much effect, as there does not appear to have been any action taken on it. On May 17, 1721, one of the articles in the warrant was "to know y^e^ Minds of the town Concerning some persons that have been in vited into the Meeting hous and have not been accomidted" and it was voted a committee be appointed to invite Mr. John Tufts of Charlestown to sit at the table in the meeting house and also his wife to sit in Captain Tufts' pew by his consent.

On January 23, 1722, Rev. Aaron Porter, who had been

minister nine years died, and the town voted to allow £20 for funeral, a large part of which, I suppose, was spent for the entertainment common on such occasions.

On March 5th, following, the town voted to allow 10*s* per sermon "to these persons that Shall preach y^e^ word of God in y^e^ s^d^ town" and all persons who contributed to have their taxes reduced by such amount. A committee was appointed to supply the pulpit.

On May 8th it was voted to appoint a committee to consult with the president and fellows of Harvard College and ask their advice concerning what proper methods may be most suitable for the town to proceed to obtain a minister, and also advice and direction as to some suitable to preach and settle.

On June 18th it was voted to proceed according to advice and keep a day of fasting and prayer for direction in settling a minister and to send to Revs. Mr. Coleman, Fox, Hancock, Brown and Appleton, and desire them to come and help the town in keeping it. Mr. Hancock, who was the grandfather of the revolutionary patriot of the same name, had previously preached in Medford, and Mr. Coleman was minister at the Brattle Street Church in Boston.

On July 19th the town voted to build a new meeting house. As frequently the custom when action was taken which did not suit a number, a protest was filed, signed by two of the selectmen and twelve others against such action.

In October it voted to hire Samuel Dexter as minister and give him £100 in bills of credit of the Province or passable bills of credit for encouragement in settling, but he did not conclude to come, although he was again urged to do so in the following February.

On November 18, 1723, it was voted to request Nathaniel Leonard to settle at £60 first year, to be increased £5 per year until it should amount to £80, together with strangers' money, and in the next February they offered him £80 and the strangers' money to settle, but the bait didn't seem attractive.

May 25, 1724, it was voted to hear Mr. Turell preach two days and Mr. Lowell preach one day, the church then to make a nomination, and the meeting was adjourned three weeks, at which time a choice was to be made, and it was voted to set apart the 15th day of June as a day of fasting and prayer, that God would please to direct the affairs of that day in the choice of a minister, and to request Revs. Mr. Coleman, Brown and Appleton to assist on that day, and the meeting adjourned to meet on the evening of the fast day. The final result was that Rev. Ebenezer Turell was chosen at a salary of £90 per year and strangers' money, which was increased to £100 in September; and he continued as minister for fifty years.

April 20, 1725, it was voted to build a new meeting house and then voted not to appropriate money for the purpose.

On January 10, 1726, a vote was finally passed to purchase of John "Allbry" an acre of land adjoining Marrabell's brook to build thereon a new meeting house, and on January 24th the town voted to buy the land for £55 and appropriated £200 towards the construction of the building, which was afterwards decided should be 52 feet long, 38 feet wide and 33 feet posts.

On March 7, 1726, the town voted to "have A Steeple Built To The New Meeting Houſe."

Votes were afterwards passed to appropriate more money for construction and furnishing, but the several amounts are so intermixed that I think it would take some one more astute than myself to decide what was actually appropriated and spent.

The first meeting was held in the new meeting house, by vote of the town, on Sunday, September 3, 1727.

Much legislation was necessary to settle the right of ownership of the pews, their location, size, etc. A committee was appointed to adjust these matters and lay out the plan for the pews. A list of those to whom they were assigned by this committee appears in the records, there being twenty-eight of them, and in this list at least six different sizes are given, ranging from 4 feet 4 inches

to 5 feet 9 inches, and a list of the price of each pew follows. Each one built his pew and some were allowed the privilege of passing others, without trespass, in order to reach their own. Another committee was appointed later to lay out pews in the space not used. Disputes immediately arose relative to these assignments, for, strange to relate, even members of the church do not always dwell in harmony. Suits were entered in the courts and the matter was even carried to the General Court, which appointed a committee to give hearings and take evidence pro and con, and "Determine the Said Disputes & Controverfies." Those connected with the disputes filed bonds to be bound by the decision to be given. The committee rendered a decision which made several changes in the ownership and other things in controversy. The town voted to accept the result and conditions as expressed in the report of the committee, and I suppose the dove of peace hovered over the meeting house for a time.

The *old* meeting house was finally sold after several votes relative thereto, and permission was given to certain ones to build stables (sheds I suppose we would call them) in the rear of the meeting house.

The records of these years, while largely devoted to matters of which I have spoken, do occasionally refer to other things. Politics seem to have been as prominent in those times, proportionately, as is the case today. Disputes arose, votes were passed and protested, officials elected and afterwards declared to be illegally chosen, and all the excitement of the present-day town meetings and elections seems to have prevailed. Several town meetings were declared invalid in their entire procedure by order of the General Court.

In 1721 there appears to have been an epidemic of small-pox, for on October 12th of that year it was voted to turn the road by "Icobod peirces house and out by samue^{ll} pollys so long as it shall be needed by Refon of y^{e} small pox being at Jonathan pollys and also by Keeping a gard at y^{e} said pollys hous" and it was also voted to

provide a house to "Stand Ready for y^e^ Remaining of Any perſons to that Shall be thought to have taken y^e^ Small pox In y^e^ said town."

The burial lot, which is a part of the Salem street cemetery, bought of Aaron Cleveland, an ancestor of our former President, was fenced by vote of May 12, 1718. Later, on December 10, 1733, I find a vote "to fence the front of the burying ground with good red cedar posts and white pine boards and make a gate — handsome double gates and color the same red."

In the early part of the eighteenth century the people of Medford began to feel that the territory of the town was too small, and took action looking toward increasing its size. Efforts were made several times to have a part of Charlestown annexed, and on March 19, 1733, a committee of three was appointed to treat with the inhabitants of Malden, those that dwelt on Wilson's farm (Wellington) and the inhabitants of Charlestown (those on the northerly side of the town extending to the Stoneham line and westerly, including "Gardener's" farm) about their being annexed. The line of Medford at this time was only one mile from the river to the north, and what is now mostly Middlesex Fells was then called the Charlestown wood lots, to reach which Fulton street was laid out. This committee does not seem to have accomplished anything, but in 1754 the General Court, on petition of many prominent citizens of Medford, added to our territory from Charlestown the section on the north to the Stoneham line and the part south of the river to about what is now the Somerville line.

On September 17, 1734, I find this entry: "Put to Vote wheth all Negro Indian and Melatto Servants that are found abroad without Leave and not on their maſters buſineſs Shall be takin up and whiped ten Stripes on their Naked back by any freeholder of this Town and be Carryed to their Reſpective Maſters ad y^e^ Said Maſters Shall be obliged to Pay the Sum of two Shillings & Sixpence in Money to y^e^ ſaid Perſon that Shall So Do.

Voted In y^e^ affirmative."

The article in the warrant calling the meeting relative to this matter reads: "Also to Know the Mind of the town whether they will make any by Law about Negrof being out unfeafonably at Night."

This vote, together with the one I previously referred to in regard to the people reporting to the selectmen when servants were bought, are the only references to slavery in the book.

There was also another article in the warrant which I perhaps may call unique. It reads: "Also whether they will Do any thing whereby Dogs may be Prevented making Difturbance in the Houfe of God on y^e^ Lords Day." I do not find any account of the action on this article.

I might continue the account of these various records longer, but lest I tax your patience will close with thanks for your attention and the privilege of addressing you.

A PROJECTED MEDFORD RAILROAD.

MR. BROOKS, in his history of Medford, devoted but sixty lines to the subject of railroads, carefully tucked away in the chapter on roads or highways, and mentioned three corporations. These were the Boston and Lowell, Medford Branch and Stoneham Branch. The success attending the building of the Medford Branch, chartered in 1845, caused Stoneham people to attempt the latter enterprise. They obtained their first charter April 27, 1847, as an extension of the Medford Branch, with the proviso that organization and location be made within one year, and construction within three years. So little was done, however, that on April 21, 1848, the general court extended the time of location to April 23, 1849.

As the conditions were not met, this charter lapsed, and on May 15, 1852, a second charter was granted. Mr. Brooks names Thaddeus Richardson, Amasa Farrar and William Young as corporators. Mr. Farrar was a

civil engineer and probably surveyed the route the road was to take.

By the charter provision it could connect with either the Medford Branch or the Boston and Lowell. To either of these roads the new could sell, the purchasing road increasing its capital stock therefor. The charter named the capital stock of the new road as $100,000, and forbade beginning the construction till one-fifth of that sum had been paid in. On May 13, 1852, the time was extended to May 1, 1853, and on April 29, 1853, a further extension of three months was granted.

The work of construction began. Mr. Brooks records, "It was graded from Stoneham into the bounds of Medford, when its construction was suddenly stopped."

After sixty years have elapsed it is of interest to trace its course in Medford as far as may be seen, and incidentally to think what the development of Medford territory might have been had the railroad been built.

Twenty years before, Purchase (now Winthrop) street was built from the old Woburn road, just north of Whitmore Brook, in a comparatively straight course to the angle of old High street now called Winthrop Square. This formed a shorter and more level route from Medford's adjoining town of Woburn, and led to the building (across Meeting-house Brook and the marsh) of Winthrop street, where were the "upper ship-yards."

In the fifteen years since the Boston and Lowell railroad was built, rapid strides had been made in engineering, and this new road was to overcome as much elevation in three miles as the former did in twenty.

Its steepest grades were at its northern portion, in the adjacent border of Stoneham and Woburn, then through the level of South Woburn, which had just been incorporated as Winchester, along and across the old mill pond and crossing the main highway near the present parkway. It followed the valley of the Aberjona till the old boundary between Woburn and Medford was reached, there it curved eastward and crossed the highway at Symmes'

Corner, as that part of Upper Medford was and still is called. To this point the last half mile had been up grade in the side of the hill, but from thence the grade required a cut of more or less depth till the present Medford boundary line was crossed.

At various places along the line in Winchester and Medford may still be found traces of the work in the cuts and embankments made, while the stone bridge built over Whitmore Brook still remains, though a few rods away all trace of the roadbed disappears where Whitmore road enters the Fells reservation. Southward the elevation of Ram's Head slopes down to Winthrop street so steeply as to raise the query as to how the railroad was to pass without crossing it twice at grade to connect with the visible remains of the work farther on.

Near the entrance to the Medford Almshouse is a well-preserved embankment in which trees have grown, which was built across the meadow through which flows the Albree Brook. A narrow strip of this meadow lies between the highway and the railroad embankment and sometimes holds water. This is often mistaken by passers-by for a remnant of the Middlesex Canal. (The writer has several times heard it thus spoken of by some in the trolley cars in passing.) The statement is about a mile from being correct. At the end of this embankment is a rock cut through the edge of Sugar-loaf Hill, and next is the lane leading northward into the Fells. There all trace of the roadbed ceases, though it was probably graded further ere work was suspended, and we may be curious as to the cause. Whether the work was begun and "ground broken with ceremony" at Stoneham is uncertain. As to the Medford end of it, let us call in Caleb Swan, who grew up to manhood in Medford, and get his story as he wrote, in (about) 1856, with the case fresh in his mind:—*

* Mr. Swan was a brother of the two he refers to. The "fine old mansion" still remains, though moved a little from its site which was closer to High street, and the wing and cupola added and otherwise remodeled by the late A. D. Puffer in 1871.

The Stoneham Rail Road was intended by its projectors in Stoneham only to go to Winchester, where the Lowell cars go to Boston 11 times a day, — in an evil hour the route was changed, to come down through Medford,—crossing the Medford road at Mr. Swan's land and again at the Medford Bridge — thus coming through the heart of the town.

The Town was entirely opposed to it, and at a Town Meeting a vote was passed *intending* to instruct the Selectmen to oppose it — but the vote was worded by Mr. Perry for the selectmen "to do what they thought most for the interest of the town," and under this wording they *favored the road*, Mr. P. C. Hall being chairman of the selectmen.

In locating the road through Mr. Benj. L. Swan's land Richardson the President had it laid out *down through the garden*, *within thirty feet of the house*, — thus wantonly and unnecessarily destroying the value of that old mansion as a pleasant residence! — when the proper and natural route, was along through the meadow not Six Rods distant from the garden — more level and as short a distance.

To protect their property from this wanton destruction Dr. Swan (for his property front of his house) and B. L. Swan (for the Homestead) brought suits in the Supreme Court against the road, on the ground that the Stock had not been taken *by responsible parties*, as required by the Charter.

Cahill, of Worcester, the contractor, who took [$] 55,000 of the Stock was proved to be bankrupt, his property in Worcester mortgaged, and he did not pay his mechanics in Worcester. — Yet Judge Myrick's decision was "that as Cahill *had complied with previous contracts* he might comply with this and be able to pay for the stock"!! and therefore was *a responsible person*.

but although the relief the Messrs. Swan's sought for was not obtained from the Court, yet it was obtained from public opinion,— for after the disclosures made on the trial, of the entire bankruptcy of Cahill, and of the whole concern, they could not borrow or fleece the public out of another dollar, — they could get no more money to pay the laborers, and they consequently broke down and failed in July 1853—just as they were on the point of entering Mr. Swan's land He had accidentally heard in Boston (not from Mr. Perry his Lawyer) of a late law requiring a road to fence the land, before entering upon it, — and on demanding this of them, they could not get money to buy materials to do it and had to stop work; the next day they would have entered upon Mr. Swan's land and commenced the destruction of his garden.

Mr. Russell's farm west of the Town Poor house is nearly destroyed by their coming over the best part of his land, — which he gave the Road.

Mr. Peter C. Hall and Mr. Hastings wanted the road to improve the value of their land for house lots — and to effect this they were willing to see their neighbor's farms broken up and destroyed.

Mr. John Bigelow; Mr. Thatcher Magoun, Jr.; Mr. Holman; Mr. Howe; Dr. Bemis; Dr. Swan; Mr. Dudley Hall; Mr. Joseph Manning; Mr. George Porter (probably); all are opposed to the road coming through Medford.

Mr. Angier, doubtful; Mr. Perry, do. — he entirely opposed its coming through *his own* land.

The town records show that after the abandonment of the work, action was taken to repair damage caused thereby. It would seem that work had extended to Purchase street and perhaps crossed both the Albree and Meeting-house brooks. According to Mr. Swan's figures the railroad would have crossed High street about midway between the brook and the square, and so paralleled lower High street, passing behind the town hall, crossed Main street and connected with the Medford Branch; thus Medford would have ceased to be a terminal station. This last was eminently distasteful to "them of old time."

In the work accomplished a large portion of the entire distance was covered, but the most difficult sections as regarded land damages and bridges yet remained.

Mr. Brooks also said, "that its course through Medford may be changed and the whole road completed is probable." Prior to the time of his writing, viz., April 19, 1854, the Legislature authorized the construction of the railroad "from its location in Medford to the B. & M. in Somerville or the B. & L. in Winchester, with discontinuance of part of present location." Also, "may increase capital stock to $200,000, time of construction three years."

This latter was what was finally done under a third charter, several years later, connecting with the Boston and Lowell just below its old flag-station of "East Woburn & Stoneham." The new station was called by the appropriate name Montvale. By this about five miles of the earlier route were abandoned, half of which nearly paralleled the Lowell tracks, in some places but a few

rods away. Winchester, just incorporated, was favorable to the early scheme; some of its people "took stock in it." In its youthful municipal enthusiasm a brass band, a military company and various societies were there formed, also a gas company. After a time the wind gave out, "the guns have gone off" (the Lawrence Light Guard is now at Medford under its charter) and the gas works, erected beside the new railroad location at the old Medford boundary, went to ruin.

It seems remarkable that in the eighty years since Purchase street was opened that but ten houses have been built beside it. Four are near Winthrop Square, and three of these date from more recent years. One was erected three years since, one in the '80s, while one was moved from High and Allston streets at about the time of the railroad enterprise, leaving three probably erected in the early '50s.

Mr. Brooks mentions twelve and Mr. Swan eleven trains daily, probably excellent accommodation at that time.

Mr. Usher makes mention of Mr. Lothrop, who lived in one of the three houses named, who had in the thirty years walked 17,264 miles to and from the West Medford station in his daily trip to Boston. Surely this railroad close by his own door would have been a convenience, a saving of effort and shoe leather. Steam was, of course, to have been its motive power, but when electricity was thus utilized there came this way through Winthrop street the modern trolley, not only twelve times, but quarter-hourly, or some sixty times a day. In its track, just below Sugar-loaf Hill, is a switch, signal, and the "ledge turnout."

The old lane still retains its sinuous course, elm-shaded from the mulberry tree and out-cropping ledge at Wyman street, and after crossing the highway and track, leads past the rock cut and past one secluded dwelling to Cedar Hill. Lily-pond lane is a rare example of an old-time wood road crossing a modern, much-

used and yet lonely thoroughfare, and this within six miles of the State House. The question naturally arises, Would this condition exist had that railroad been completed and operated? Would not Medford have grown here, as elsewhere, a residential section?

It is a coincidence that Medford, at about the same time, established nearby its almshouse and cemetery. People naturally keep from both as long as possible. It was once (and long since) satirically said in town meeting that prosperity would only come to Medford after some first-class funerals. Without any thought of personal reflection, we may add there surely has time enough elapsed for them to have occurred.

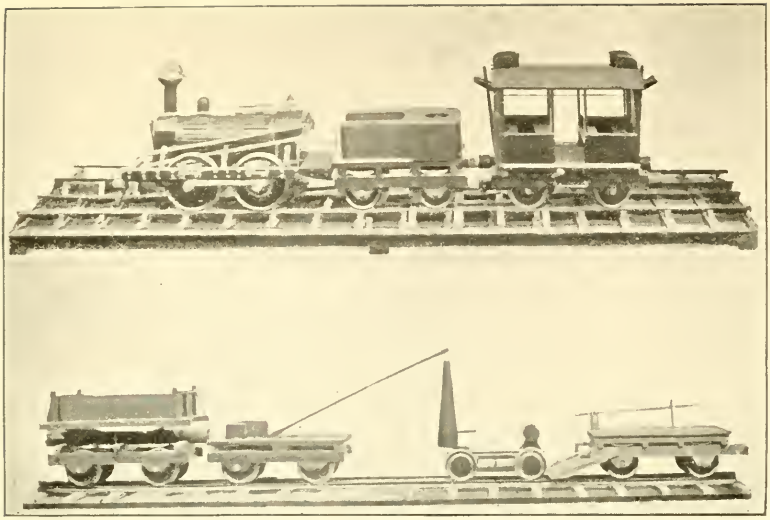
Winchester is growing in worthy style toward Medford line. The silent city of Oak Grove on the one side and the narrow strip of Park Reservation on the other, must ever lie between, but there is an opportunity on the Medford side, along the old railroad location, for excellent home sites and tasteful, comfortable homes of a thrifty people, beautiful as any for situation, and backed all the way by our great natural park, Middlesex Fells.

M. W. M.

A QUERY ANSWERED.

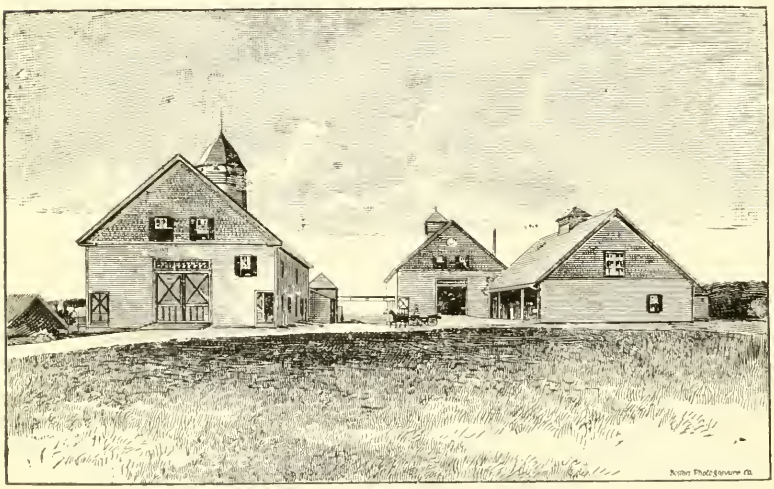
On page 97, Vol. XV, of the REGISTER, is a quotation from Francis Parkman (written in 1845) relating to a "navy surgeon at Medford," followed by the editor's query, "Who was he?"

Mr. Francis Wait writes, referring to Parkman's stay in Medford: "In those days a Colonel Jaques lived at Ten Hills Farm-house, which was a short distance over the line in Charlestown (now Somerville) and set some way back from Medford turnpike. I have seen Jaques ride through Medford on gunning trips with his hounds following, and sometimes on the return home there would be one or more dogs hours behind him. I have been told the story of his swapping horses with a man in Charlestown Square, after which he told him to examine the horse's eyes, one of which was artificial.



FIRST ENGINE AND CARS, B. & L. R. R.

Photographed from models made by Waterman Brown of Woburn, Mass., early and till his death in the service of the railroad company.



ELMS FARM BARNS.

Courtesy of B. J. Griffiths.

"I think that Colonel Jaques, who was a veterinary, if not a naval surgeon, answers the query."

The following, from the *Somerville Journal* Souvenir, 1892, is communicated by Mrs. H. M. Heald of that city:

"About 1830 Col. Samuel Jaques bought the Ten Hills estate, and one hundred and six gentlemen furnished $300 each for the purpose of starting a model farm held by trustees. Colonel Jaques was noted for his love of field sports and the chase. His horses and hounds (and it is said he had a pack of forty) were known for miles around. As a steeplechase rider he was seldom equalled, but *never* excelled. In this vicinity and in Middlesex Fells, in the hunting season, his bugle call was daily heard.

. . . . . .

"Colonel Jaques died March 27, 1859."

Mr. Parkman was in error as to the colonel's residing in Medford. His home, the old Temple mansion in Charlestown (now Somerville) was demolished in 1877, and much of its elevated site was used in filling the marsh land along the Mystic. Being so near the border it was a natural error for Mr. Parkman to fall into, as may be seen by the observations we have noted.

ALONG THE TRACK.

By the courtesy of Mr. Hodgdon we are furnished the following items from the *sixth* annual report of the Boston and Lowell Railroad: —

"Eight levels, length 18,443 feet; 18 inclines from 2.6 to 30.46 feet per mile. Length in all, 136,019 feet, of which $18\frac{3}{8}$ miles are in a straight line. Total length of road, $25\frac{3}{4}$ miles, $59\frac{7}{10}$ feet. One curve in Medford is 2,800 feet radius, all others are greater."

The rolling stock consisted of "6 engines, 29 passenger cars, 3 baggage and 99 merchandise cars, costing $111,037.02." Two of these engines were imported from England, the others probably built in the company's shops at Lowell.

This report was issued two and a half years after the

opening of the road. Less than half of its second track was then laid, as the outlay to date exceeded the capital stock of $1,500,000 by $8,400. Enough rails of the "fish-belly type" had been purchased in England to lay both, but sold without loss for lack of capital to finish the work. Note illustration, and contrast the first (English) engine and cars with those now used, and their four round trips with the present daily traffic through Medford.

THE ELMS FARM BARNS.

Allusion has been made in a former issue to the passing of the Brooks estate at West Medford. Near the site of the great barns, modern dwellings have been erected and are in occupancy. As a memory of the past, the REGISTER presents a view of the buildings destroyed by incendiary fire in the early morning hours of July 13, 1910. These replaced others of equal size destroyed by a lightning fire July 12, 1888, one of which was erected by Gilbert Lincoln after the destruction by incendiaries of one on August 10, 1855. This, erected during the absence of Mr. Edward Brooks in Europe, was on a massive basement of Medford granite that withstood both conflagrations, but is now entirely removed.

At the erection of those last built there was an old-fashioned "raising" (of which photographs were made), and refreshments served to the company. Ham & Hopkins were the builders and made record time in their excellent work, that the season's hay could be housed and the business of the farm continue.

SOME OLD VERSES.

Among the manuscripts preserved in the Society's rooms are some verses supposed to have been written nearly a century since by a Medford man, who was a schoolmaster. Well worth reading today, the REGISTER presents them: —

ON BOOKS.

Books, of all earthly things my chief delight,
My exercise by day, my dreams by night;
Dispafsioned masters, Friends without deceit,
Who flatter not; companions ever sweet;
With whom I'm always cheerful, from whom rise
Improved and better, if not good and wise;
Grave faithful counsellors, who all excite,
Instruct and strengthen to behave aright;
Admonish us when Fortune makes her court
And when she's absent, solace and support.
Happy the man to whom ye are well known;
'Tis his own fault if ever he's alone.

PLEASURE.

Ah, fly, incautious Youth the flattering snare,
Which pleasure spreads to lure thee to her Gate;
In her soft Courts conceal'd pale Want and Care,
And dire Disease, and keen Remorse await;
These Fiends shall drive thee from her dazzling shrine,
And swift to Infamy's dread Cave consign.

—*Andrew Hall.*

THE SOCIETY'S WORK.

The published History of Medford is the work of Rev. Charles Brooks, 1855, reprinted with some omissions and little addition by Mr. Usher in 1885.

Twenty years later (in the necessarily limited space of ninety pages allotted him by the publishing committee) Mr. Hooper covered the entire period of Medford's existence in a concise and interesting compilation of historic facts. These he combined with some results of his own research and illustrated it by maps.

Ten years before this, however, the Historical Society was formed, one of its objects being to gather such facts relative to Medford history, near and remote, as were likely to be lost or forgotten. It has sought to do this by papers and addresses, many of which have appeared in the REGISTER. During the past season they have been as follows: —

October 21. — "Distinguished Guests and Residents in Medford." Miss Eliza M. Gill.
November 18. — "The Roman Catholic Church in Medford." Mrs. Louise F. Hunt.
December 16. — "Milestones in and around Boston." Charles F. Read, Esq.
January 20. — "Old Salem Street." Miss Helen T. Wild.
February 17. — "Old Medford Records." Allston P. Joyce, Esq.
March 17. — "John Trumbull, Painter of the Revolution." Mr. Samuel Abbott.
April 21. — "The Massacre at Lancaster and the Story of Mrs. Rowlandson." Mrs. Augusta R. Brigham.
May 19. — "The Romance of Records." Rev. Arthur W. H. Eaton, D.C.L.

On Saturday evening, May 3, at a special meeting, Mr. F. H. C. Woolley exhibited his water-color of the *Pilgrim*, and told the story of this last Medford ship.

The society rooms have been open to members on Saturday evenings, and members are privileged to invite friends to the meetings. It is to be regretted that more do not avail themselves of the opportunity and become acquainted with our work, and also that our limited means prohibit the opening of the rooms to the public on stated *days*.

With this issue the REGISTER completes its sixteenth volume. There is but little on its nearly two thousand pages that is foreign to Medford, and much that can be found *thus* in print nowhere else. It is the result of the painstaking work, a labor of love, of many who claim Medford as home. Not all the story of the remote past of our ancient town has been as yet written. There are certainly many events and items of more recent time well worth notice. And this for the bettering of the city that is and is to be.

The Society's Work

SEVENTEENTH YEAR

1912-1913

OCTOBER 21

Distinguished Guests and Residents of Medford

MISS ELIZA M. GILL

NOVEMBER 18

History of the Roman Catholic Church in Medford

MRS. LOUISE F. HUNT

DECEMBER 16

Milestones in and near Boston

CHARLES F. READ, ESQ.,
OF BROOKLINE,
Clerk of the Bostonian Society

JANUARY 20

ANNUAL MEETING

The Bishop Family of Medford

MISS HELEN T. WILD

FEBRUARY 17

Old Medford Records

ALLSTON P. JOYCE, ESQ., City Clerk

MARCH 17

John Trumbull, the Painter of the Revolution

MR. SAMUEL ABBOTT
OF NEWTON CENTRE

APRIL 21

The Massacre at Lancaster and the Story of Mrs. Rowlandson

MRS. AUGUSTA R. BRIGHAM
OF MALDEN

MAY 19

The Drug Business in Medford

MR. DANIEL N. HOWARD

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